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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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REPORT OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The twelfth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) was held at Addis Ababa, People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 29 April to 7 May 1991. The meeting was formally opened by Comrade Zewde Teklu, Alternate Member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, Commissioner for Central Planning for National Resources Preservation, Construction and Planning of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (PDRE). Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, also delivered a statement at the opening ceremony of the meeting. The representative of Namibia moved a motion of thanks to the Government and People of Ethiopia.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations were present: Afghanistan, China, Finland, France, Romania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Venezuela.

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank, International Telecommunications Union (ITU), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/HABITAT), World Food Council (WFC) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

5. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was represented.

6. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), African Development Bank (ADB), African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), European Economic Community (EEC), African

Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC).

7. Observers were also present from the following non-governmental organizations: Commonwealth Secretariat and Lutheran World Federation.

8. The Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Zambia
First Vice-Chairman:	Nigeria
Second Vice-Chairman:	Burundi
Rapporteur:	Morocco

9. The Committee established an open-ended sub-committee chaired by the Second Vice-Chairman, Burundi, to consider draft resolutions for adoption by the Committee.

B. AGENDA

10. On 29 April 1991, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.

PART I. Preliminary review of Africa's economic and social performance in 1990 and prospects for 1991

4.1 Economic Report on Africa 1991.

4.2 The Gulf crisis and the African economies

PART II. Transformation, Recovery and Adjustment

5.1 Lagos Plan of Action: Ten years after.

- Decennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos

5.2 United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD)

- Final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD).

5.3 Beyond Recovery and Towards Transformation: African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP)

(a) Progress report on follow-up on AAF-SAP

(b) Revitalization of long-term planning for structural transformation

(c) Mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation; public participation in development planning and management

(d) Impact of structural adjustment programmes on population

(e) Preparations for the Third African Population Conference.

PART III. Issues, studies and reports on regional co-operation for development in Africa

6. (a) Reorganization of the MULPOCs: Follow-up on the report of the evaluation mission to review the achievements of the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening them and making them more effective

(b) Progress report on the strengthening of subregional economic integration process and the establishment of the African Economic Community

(c) Industrial development in Africa

- Progress report on the preparation of the Programme for the United Nations Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

(d) Transport and Communications in Africa

- Programme for the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

(e) Natural resources and environment in Africa

(i) Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (MPAP) including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in Africa (1981-1990) and perspectives for the 1990s

(ii) Report on the preparations in Africa for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992

(f) Social development and humanitarian affairs

(i) The state of social development in Africa and the policy challenges for the 1990s

(ii) Changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

(g) Operational activities

- Report on ECA-executed technical co-operation projects.

Part IV. (item 7) Issues from subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers

Part V. Statutory Issues

8. Follow-up action on relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission, the General Assembly and ECOSOC that are of interest to Africa

(a) Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

(b) Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1990 and by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa.

9. Staff and administrative questions

Part VI. Programme of work and priorities of the Commission

10. (a) Proposed programme of work and priorities for the 1992-1993 biennium

(b) ECA Advisory Services: The Challenges for the 1990s.

Part VII. Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)

11. (a) Progress report on the implementation of UNTFAD-funded projects, 1990-1991

(b) Proposals for utilization of UNTFAD resources during the period 1992-1993.

(c) Proposal for a regional programme for the placement of African Experts.

12. Orientation paper for the UNDP Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa.

13. Any other business.

14. Date and venue of the thirteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.

15. Adoption of the report.

16. Closure of the meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

11. In his opening statement, Comrade Zewde Teklu, Alternate Member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and Commissioner for Central Planning for National Resources Preservation, Construction and Planning welcomed participants to his country. He said that, eleven years after the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos (FAL) were adopted, assessments of both had affirmed their continued validity as blue-prints for Africa's development. The collective strategies of the Plan were still crucial to the rapid recovery and transformation of African economies in the 1990s. In that regard, the African Alternative Framework for Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAP) completed and supplemented both the Plan and the Act.

12. At the heart of the African development perspective lay the desire for deep-rooted structural transformation that made for self-sustaining growth. African countries were rejecting orthodox structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) because they did not remove the structural bottlenecks; that required determined State intervention in the economy. The SAPs assumed that, since conventional instruments, such as the control of money supply, credit exchange, interest rates and trade liberalization had been relevant to well structured economies, they might also produce positive results for the weak and disjointed African economies. They had failed to sustain economic growth, and had instead exacerbated budget and balance-of-payment deficits.

13. It was in response to that situation that the African Alternative Framework for Structural Adjustment Programmes had been developed. The framework had stressed that such programmes must be nationally conceived if they were to lead to success. Economic transformation programmes had to be so organized as to protect the already dismal levels of social spending in Africa. AAF-SAP was comprehensive in the sense that its macro-economic framework, policy measures and implementation strategies took into account the existing dynamic relations between all the major elements of adjustment and transformation. It also placed emphasis on full mobilization and efficient utilization of local resources, and on the need to create an enabling environment for sustained development. It urged the adoption of a pragmatic approach in the formulation of specific programmes, the appropriate choice of policy instruments, and the search for relevant implementation strategies in each country. There was a necessity for African Governments to replace orthodox SAPs, which inhibited change and transformation, with AAF-SAP's long-term, human-centred development

objectives. With their underlying vulnerability, fragility and structural weaknesses, African economies had not been able to contain external shocks. The advanced industrial countries had taken no special measures to alleviate the impact of the crisis, but had left African countries to cope on their own.

14. In his view, nothing short of a drastic reduction in the stock of debt and debt service would be adequate to support the recovery and long-term process of growth in Africa. In that regard, African countries should do their utmost to keep African debt problems on the economic agenda of the major creditor countries and lending institutions. It would be essential for Africa, in collaboration with its development partners, to devise quickly a medium-term programme which would follow UN-PAAERD in revitalizing the Lagos Plan of Action and operationalizing AAF-SAP.

15. In its march towards the ultimate objective of the Final Act of Lagos, ie, the establishment of an African Economic Community, there was an urgent need to harmonize the process of economic integration among the different subregions. It was also time to assess the extent to which the Final Act of Lagos had been implemented, and its provisions incorporated, by African States in their national, subregional and regional policies. Those subregional groups currently existing needed to be strengthened and made complementary, for otherwise the African Economic Community could not successfully be launched. African countries must renew their commitment by showing more political commitment to development. He hoped that TEPCOW would be successful in defining remedies to the current crisis of the continent.

16. The Executive Secretary observed that, in ECA's assessment of socio-economic conditions in Africa over the past 12 months, there had been no indication of a positive long-term trend towards recovery and structural transformation. The modest rates of overall economic expansion of 3.3 per cent and 2.6 per cent registered in 1989 and 1990 respectively had been far from sufficient to redress the devastating declines in socio-economic welfare experienced in the 1980s. In 1990, the standard of living of the average African had fallen again as unemployment, inflation and population pressures remained at intolerable levels. On the external front, the Uruguay Round had stalled. The second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Paris in September 1990 had not even heeded the call for an immediate programme of action for the period 1991-1993, which was to enhance emergency preparedness and to reconstruct the shattered economies of the African least developed countries. Those now numbered 29 out of the 43 existing in the World.

17. African agriculture had not done well in 1990. Production had risen by only half the rate of population growth at 1.5 per cent, although this was more than the 0.5 per cent achieved in 1989.

Rainfall patterns had been generally unfavourable and some areas had been hit by drought. Civil strife, the structural problems of poor transportation and poor market conditions had caused serious food shortages in some countries. Commercial crops had also not contributed significantly to the fragile growth of the regional GDP. Some positive developments had, however, taken place in the mining and mineral sector in the year following the Persian Gulf crisis and the subsequent rise in crude oil production. The seven oil-producing African countries had earned an additional $US 10.5 billion, thus boosting their GDP by almost 3.5 per cent, and increasing total African export values by 14.7 per cent in 1990. That economic windfall had, however, not been enough to bring the income of the oil exporting countries to the level they enjoyed in 1980, and subsequent fluctuations in oil prices had only succeeded in pushing public finances in those countries into disarray. With regard to the non-oil exporting countries, the impact of the Gulf war had been yet one more crisis and a distraction from the goal of recovery and sustained development. Besides, the output of most non-oil mineral products decreased in 1990, thus marking an end to the 1987-1989 metal boom. The manufacturing sector had registered some modest growth, but the process of deindustrialization had persisted as manufacturing plants continued to be either under-utilized or to close down altogether.

18. The total stock of Africa's external debt had risen by 4.7 per cent between 1989 and 1990, to reach $US 271 billion - about 3.2 times the value of exports of goods and services, and the equivalent of the combined GDP of the region. Sub-Saharan Africa's total debt servicing obligations added up to about 34 per cent of exports of goods and services in 1990. The steep rise in oil prices following the Gulf crisis had forced the non-oil exporting countries to resort to short-term measures, including expensive short-term borrowing, to alleviate crucial energy shortages. None of the debt relief initiatives proposed at the international level had gone far enough to provide solutions that actually reduced the stock of debt and debt service.

19. Prospects for the rest of the year and beyond depended not only on the weather situation but also on the extent to which African Governments persisted with domestic policy reforms, sound economic management, maintenance of a stable security system and a positive, people-centred political climate. Should such conditions prevail, the food and agriculture sector would grow faster than the population in 1991. As a consequence, the manufacturing sector, and in particular agro-industries, would experience significant recovery, especially in capacity utilization as domestic inputs increased.

20. He felt that the theme of the session, "Africa in the 1990s: meeting the challenges", was particularly fitting, and the agenda before the Committee well-focused.

21. The review and appraisal of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos would serve as a useful springboard for tackling today's challenges. The group of eminent Africans set up to review and appraise the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos had emphasized the continued relevance of the Plan and the Final Act, and the need for their rapid and vigorous implementation in the period remaining. The review would be useful in determining the choices that would have to be made in the next ten years.

22. The dislocations in African economies caused by the Gulf crisis and the looming world recession called for resolute measures to enable Africa to begin the uphill climb of structural transformation. Among the possible measures to be taken, serious thought should be given to the design of an overall energy strategy for the African region. Africa must draw lessons from the Gulf crisis. It should, in particular, face the challenges of the new geopolitical order that was fast evolving in the wake of the war, if it was to avoid further marginalization both economically and politically.

23. With regard to the implementation of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) in African countries, much progress had been realized in the previous year. However, more remained to be done, particularly in mobilizing support at the popular level. With regard to regional co-operation for economic integration as a strategy for African development and survival, the scheduled signing of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community assumed particular significance. The Commission should continue to spare no effort to ensure that the mechanisms and the strategies to be established by the Treaty would be put in motion forthwith.

24. The Executive Secretary commended the programme for the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa UNTACDA II as adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning to the Committee for its review. It was the responsibility of the ECA Conference of Ministers to recommend the programme to the African Heads of State and Government and to the international community. The Conference of African Ministers of Industry would itself meet this year to adopt, on behalf of the Commission, the programme for the United Nations Second Industrial Development Decade in Africa (IDDA II) which would run concurrently with UNTACDA II.

25. He underlined the significance of the other issues in regional co-operation for development in Africa which were before the Committee, such as population factors in development; the implementation of the Mar Del Plata Plan of Action, including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in

Africa; women's participation in the industrialization process; and the UNDP Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa.

26. He introduced the ECA-Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG), which had recently been constituted from ECA's regular regional advisers, and had been entrusted with the task of providing flexible, multidisciplinary solutions to problems facing member States. He hoped that member States would take advantage of the potential of the group.

27. He was happy to announce that the vacancy rate at ECA had dropped significantly from 25.7 percent in 1989 to 8.5 percent. The proportion of women in the professional staff categories had also increased in the past few years. ECA had completed a large scale office automation exercise with the acquisition and installation of micro-computers and other equipment and software accessible to virtually all staff members. The ground-breaking ceremony for the commencement of the construction of the additional conference facilities had also been performed.

28. This was to be the last opening statement he would make to TEPCOW as Executive Secretary. At his request, the Secretary-General had agreed to release him of his duties as the head of the Commission by July 31, 1991. The Deputy Executive Secretary was also leaving the service of the United Nations. He expressed grateful thanks to the Committee for its support over the years.

29. The representative of Namibia read a vote of thanks to the Committee. He extended the greetings of President Sam Nujoma and the Government of Namibia to all its members. He referred to the statement made by the representative of Ethiopia, who, in reviewing the major economic problems of Africa which were prominent on the agenda of TEPCOW, had contributed greatly to its work in the coming days.

30. He also referred to the impending departure of the Executive Secretary, Professor Adebayo Adedeji, and spoke of the deep gratitude expressed by the Committee for his devoted stewardship of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

31. He drew the attention of the Committee to its agenda, and in particular to the Economic Report on Africa, which reviewed the main socio-economic trends of 1990, and the prognosis for 1991. Despite the depressing picture it conveyed, it was a document which would engender positive discussion among the members of the Committee. He was convinced that TEPCOW would bring its expertise to bear on this and other issues on the agenda, so that sound and concrete recommendations could be prepared and transmitted to the Conference of Ministers for their approval.

PART I

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF AFRICA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PERFORMANCE IN 1990 AND PROSPECTS FOR 1991

Economic Report on Africa (agenda item 4.1)

32. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/2, entitled "Economic Report on Africa 1991".

33. In its review of socio-economic trends and issues in Africa during 1990, the Committee noted that the socio-economic situation had been marked by a deterioration of the welfare of the people compared to 1989. That was a result of several factors, including harsh climatic conditions, the impact of the Persian Gulf crisis on the total import bill and the level of debt, the decline in world demand for commodities, the worsening problem of debt which increased by 4.7 per cent compared to the preceding year, and other structural and social problems in several parts of the continent.

34. With regard to the prognosis for 1991, the Committee observed that Africa's prospects for the current year depended on two vital factors: the performance of the agricultural sector, and the economic situation in the industrialized countries. There was a strong possibility that the agricultural season would be good if rainfall was adequate, and policies for the strengthening of the agricultural sectors were pursued. On the other hand, the recession in the industrialized countries risked undermining the chances of Africa to improve its performance in 1991 after a fall in commodity prices and consequent financial problems. The low flow of resources to Africa could have a serious impact on the level of investments, but that could be alleviated by optimizing the use of existing infrastructure. It was expected, however, that the African oil-exporting countries would have a better year if the price of oil remained at $US 20 per barrel. Overall, therefore, the GDP for 1991 was expected to grow by 2 to 3 per cent.

35. The Committee noted certain methodological errors in the presentation of the document, particularly in the table of contents. Certain delegations questioned the accuracy of some of the data pertaining to their countries in the document and said that they would provide the secretariat with the correct information. The Committee noted the pessimistic tone of the document with regard to the economic performance of Africa in 1990 as well as the prospects for 1991.

36. The Committee dwelt at length on the negative impact of social conflicts in Africa on the welfare of the people, a subject which it noted was being dealt with for the first time by the secretariat in a working document. It expressed satisfaction that the treatment of the issue was a sign that Africa was ready to look at its problems squarely, and to search for relevant solutions to them. Social conflicts as well as problems of democratization and popular participation, should henceforth take their place in the development debate in Africa.

37. Another issue discussed in detail by the Committee was privatization in Africa. Far from being a simple and unique consequence of poor public enterprise performance, privatization should rather be perceived as an economic, political and strategic choice, whereby the State decided to give each entrepreneur the chance to do more and better. It was unfortunate that a very important aspect of privatization, namely the development of the management capabilities of indigenous businessmen to enable them take full advantage of privatization, was most often overlooked.

38. On the question of Africa's debt, the Committee observed that difficulties in finding solutions to the debt problem were due to lack of political will on the part of some donors as it was clear that the problem was more political than technical. The African Common Position on Debt was quite clear. What was lacking was the unwillingness of the international community to address that position in a fundamental manner. The Committee, accordingly, urged that the international community should agree to the organization of an international conference on Africa's debt. It further urged that emphasis should be given to more efficient debt management and that ECA should increase its assistance in that area.

39. The Committee was gratified to note that certain industrialized countries continued to plead the cause of Africa at international forums and were taking measures to increase aid to Africa, and to alleviate its debt burden.

40. The Committee recommended that there should be more collaboration between ECA and member States regarding data to be included in ECA documents on their respective countries. Paragraph 57 of the document should incorporate the main management mechanisms of the external sector contained in the "Strategies for revitalization, recovery and growth of African trade in the 1990s and beyond", document E/ECA/TRADE/89/25/Rev.5, adopted by the special session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade in December 1990. The Committee further recommended the endorsement of the "strategies for revitalization, recovery and growth of African trade in the 1990s and beyond" and urged the industrialized countries to increase their aid to Africa.

The Gulf crisis and the African economies (agenda item 4.2)

41. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/3. It commended the initiative of the secretariat for bringing up the issue for consideration. Some delegates, took exception to the use in the document, of the adjective "Persian" to qualify the Gulf and considered it inappropriate. The Executive Secretary explained that the word had been used in compliance with a recent United Nations editorial directive.

42. The Committee underlined the distinction between the impacts of the crisis on the African oil-producing countries on the one hand, and the oil-importing ones on the other. For the oil-producing countries, the increase in oil prices had enabled some of them to make considerable gains in revenue, which helped to ease the financial constraints for import needs and external debt servicing. The oil-importers suffered from additional import bills totalling about $US 2.7 billion, uncertainties in energy supply, and high domestic prices in the energy and related sectors, which forced them to resort to short-term borrowing, thereby deepening their debt crisis. The Committee felt that other serious consequences of the crisis, in particular those concerning, the food and agriculture, food security, the environment, tourism and transport sectors also needed to be explored. The dominant theme had been the impact of oil but that impact had spilt over to create disruptions in supply, diversification, immigration, exports and other factors. Since the evaluation was only provisional, the Committee recommended that the cumulative impacts of the Gulf crisis on Africa should be monitored regularly.

43. The Committee recalled with dismay that there had been insufficient international response to the adverse impacts on the African non-oil producing countries. It however noted with satisfaction that some African oil-producing countries had come to the help of some of those which had adversely suffered from the crisis.

44. The Committee further reviewed some important lessons that should be learnt from the Gulf crisis. They included the need to review energy policies, to develop strategies for establishing shock-absorbing energy measures, to establish subregional and regional standardization of facilities for the use of energy, and to encourage research and development into alternative sources of energy. All of that should be embodied in a comprehensive Energy Plan for Africa.

PART II

TRANSFORMATION, RECOVERY AND ADJUSTMENT

Lagos Plan of Action : Ten years after

- Decennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos (agenda item 5.1)

45. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/4: Decennial review and appraisal of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

46. The Committee took note of the conclusions of the meeting of the group of high-level experts that had been jointly organized by ADB, ECA and OAU, from 6 to 8 December 1990 in Lagos, Nigeria, for the purpose. It concurred with the group of experts that the Plan and the Act were as valid as ever and noted, therefore, that the revitalization of the commitment to their full implementation was a major necessity in Africa if the continent was to move forward in the 1990s, and if there was not to be another lost decade. The revitalization of the commitment to the Plan and the Act was particularly important in the light of the adverse factors that had undermined economic growth and development in the 1980s. There had been a crisis of development planning in Africa, which had resulted from the pursuit of orthodox structural adjustment programmes. African countries were often misled by an erroneous perception that structural adjustment was incompatible with medium- and long-term development planning.

47. The accelerated implementation of the Plan called, among other things, for Africa to make national and collective self-reliance the central pivot of its strategy for socio-economic transformation, with particular emphasis on subregional and regional economic cooperation, and the harmonization and integration of various sectoral, national and subregional plans. It also called for the full respect of the principles of the "African Charter for Popular Participation in Development".

48. The Committee recognized that, while progress had been made towards realizing the goals and objectives of the Final Act of Lagos, especially in terms of the establishment of new subregional economic groupings, the Plan itself had remained virtually unimplemented. The Committee, ascribed this non-implementation of the Plan to both internal and external factors. It deplored the fact that the principles and objectives of the LPA and Final Act of Lagos had not always been adequately integrated in and implemented

within the framework of national plans. This was because economic and short-term considerations had often been given priority over the development and structural transformation imperatives which underlie the strategy of the Lagos Plan of Action. It was also regrettable that no provision had been made for such mechanisms during the adoption of the Plan.

49. The need for member States to rely on internal resources for the implementation of Africa's development programmes was underlined. Development planning was seen as a valid concept and a practical tool for the attainment of medium- and long-term development goals and objectives such as those embodied in the Lagos Plan of Action.

50. The Executive Secretary underscored the significance of political will as an indispensable factor for the full and effective implementation of the Plan. Most countries had indeed failed to follow the Plan, even though modalities for implementation had been drawn up in a seminal paper which was made available to member States soon after its adoption. He reminded the Committee that a five-year review of the implementation of the Plan had been undertaken in 1985 by TEPCOW and the Conference of Ministers. The conclusions arrived at then were not considerably different from those reached now.

51. The goodwill of the international community was of course important for the successful implementation of Africa's strategies and programmes, and Africa had always sought that goodwill. It was, however, unrealistic for the region to continue to draw up plans and programmes whose external financial requirements were upwards of 80 percent of the total. There was need to rely more heavily on domestic resources. The Lagos Plan of Action was still relevant to present and future development strategies and effective policy reforms for socio-economic transformation. It should in particular form the basis for the formulation of all structural adjustment programmes. It was essential for the Committee to come up with concrete proposals to ensure the success of the Plan. To that end, the Committee set up a special drafting group to draw up proposals for consideration by the Ministers.

52. The Committee adopted draft resolution 1 (XII).

United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD)

- Final Review and Appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) (agenda item 5.2)

53. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/5 entitled: Draft Memorandum by the ECA Conference of Ministers to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Final Review and Appraisal of the implementation of UN-PAAERD. The Draft Memorandum had been prepared by an Intergovernmental Expert Group that met at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 19 to 26 April 1991, in conformity with the decision taken by the Commission at its previous session.

54. The Committee noted that the Expert Group meeting had prepared the Draft Memorandum convinced that the principles of the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) remained valid, as did the tenets of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAP). It was also noted that the Group had found that, while African Governments had fulfilled much of their commitments under UN-PAAERD, the international community had failed to do likewise. UN-PAAERD, had for this reason not made the expected contribution to the development of the continent.

55. The Group of Experts had discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having a follow-up programme to UN-PAAERD, but had concluded that such a programme would not be ideal in the light of the plethora of international programmes of direct interest to Africa which had already been approved or were in the pipeline. It had instead opted for a New International Agenda for Co-operation with the international community that would focus on a number of issues crucial to Africa's progress and prosperity. Those issues related to debt, the commodity problem, South-South cooperation, subregional and regional economic cooperation and integration, and democratization of the economy and society and the full participation of the people in development. The Group had also recommended that a high-level monitoring committee should be established to oversee the implementation of the New Agenda.

56. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Group of Experts for the quality of its work. It endorsed the idea of a New Agenda for cooperation, as opposed to a special follow-up programme, and stressed the need to put more emphasis on developing and maintaining an enabling international environment for Africa to develop on the basis of individual and collective self-reliance.

57. The Committee established an open-ended Ad Hoc drafting committee under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Expert Group that had prepared the Draft Memorandum, to re-examine the Draft Memorandum in the light of the following guidelines.

58. The Committee felt that the Draft Memorandum should include a section setting out the full justification and the rationale behind the New Agenda. It also felt that greater emphasis should be placed on the need to mobilize more resources to support the efforts of regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration groupings. The need to stimulate an increased flow of financial resources from the international community to support the continent's efforts to transform the structures of national economies into a sustained process of growth and development should also be stressed.

59. The Committee requested the Ad Hoc drafting committee, to review the composition and the mandate of the proposed high-level monitoring committee. As the members of that monitoring committee were to come from all over the world, it would be costly and time-consuming to assign to it the responsibility of a secretariat. ECA could serve as its secretariat, as had been done with UN-PAAERD. To facilitate the work of the monitoring committee, targets were to be defined, at the national, subregional and regional levels, for each of the major elements included in the New Agenda. That work could be done under the leadership of ECA and OAU.

60. On the issue of the limited success of UN-PAAERD, which was ascribed largely to the insufficient contribution of the international community to Africa's development during its implementation, the Committee cautioned members not to put the blame entirely on the other party. The flow of financial resources to Africa had indeed declined in constant terms (with a base of 1986) as shown in paragraph 29 of the Draft Memorandum. The Committee felt, however, that Africans themselves should strive to adhere to the principle of self-reliant development so that international assistance would only be a supplement to Africa's own efforts. In particular, Africans should develop and maintain an enabling environment for the democratization of the development process, which would include the full participation of the population, and ensure the accountability of economic management. Equally, emphasis should be placed on value added primary commodity processing instead of struggling to secure better prices for unprocessed commodities.

61. The Committee took note of the view of the observer for France that the two parties, namely, Africa and the international community should submit a joint evaluation of UN-PAAERD to the Conference of Ministers in order to avoid a biased assessment. He observed that his country had made a significant contribution to

the implementation of UN-PAAERD. He drew the attention of the Committee to the danger of insisting on the cancellation of debt as that could have detrimental effects and might lead to the suspension of assistance by certain donors to the African continent.

62. Concerning the follow-up actions to UN-PAAERD, the Committee emphasized the need to focus on needs and problems rather than another special programme as four such programmes had already been approved or were under consideration by the international community. Those were the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the New Programme for LDCs, UNTACDA II and IDDA II. The monitoring of all these programmes would already be costly and cumbersome for member States. The Committee recognized that some positive initiatives had been taken with regard to the debt issue. However, it found the efforts of the international community to be too little too late.

63. The Committee requested the Ad Hoc drafting committee to ensure that the texts in the different languages were aligned to eliminate discrepancies.

64. The Committee adopted the Draft Memorandum as amended and as contained in Annex II.

Beyond Recovery and Towards Transformation: African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) (agenda item 5.3)

Progress report on the follow-up of AAF-SAP [item 5.3 (a)]

65. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/7 entitled "Progress report on the follow-up of AAF-SAP".

66. It noted that activities undertaken by the secretariat since the adoption of AAF-SAP related mainly to the operationalization of the Framework, its popularization, and efforts at building a consensus on it, especially at the international level.

67. The Committee observed that despite the exposure given to AAF-SAP in meetings, conferences, and in publications of ECA, the concept was still new in the minds of many African decision-makers and had still to bring about major changes in the policies of many governments and funding institutions. It further observed that in accordance with the strategy followed since the adoption of the Framework, the secretariat had continued to pursue the two-pronged approach which involved in-depth studies on the one hand, and the

provision of direct assistance to countries and subregional organizations. The secretariat studies on the selected policy instruments of AAF-SAP had been revised and widely discussed at various intergovernmental meetings. In addition the secretariat was working on AAF-SAP models which would be tested under specific country conditions. The secretariat had also responded to requests from two member States for direct assistance in the implementation of the Framework. The Committee noted that the secretariat's capacity in this area would be considerably strengthened through the use of the recently established Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG).

68. With regard to the popularization of the Framework, the Committee observed that the strategy had three components, namely, the continued dissemination of the AAF-SAP document; the preparation of a popular version of the document, and the presentation and discussion of the principles at various forums. The period under review had also seen a major effort at the international level to mobilize people, institutions and the donor community in a consensus on policies for African development. That effort was in essence, a meeting between what had been perceived to be an emerging technical consensus of experts around AAF-SAP and the World Bank Long-term Perspective Study on the other. The effort had focused on how such an emerging technical consensus could be converted into a political consensus which would embrace both African and donor governments.

69. The Committee concluded that while work on the promotion of AAF-SAP had been steadily progressing, much still needed to be done particularly in the area of support mobilization at the grass-roots level. The popular version of the document was particularly welcomed. The Committee urged the secretariat to disseminate that version as widely as possible, and to continue to intensify the assistance it provided to member States on the implementation of AAF-SAP. It was also suggested that ECA should direct its dissemination efforts towards member States, on the one hand by encouraging them to organize seminars on AAF-SAP and on the other to bilateral and multilateral development partners in order to harmonize the various economic policy instruments contained in the Framework.

Revitalization of long-term planning for structural transformation [item 5.3 (b)]

70. Document E/ECA/CM.17/8 - Revitalization of long-term planning for structural transformation was introduced to the Committee for examination.

71. The Committee reviewed the evolution of development planning experiences in Africa over the past thirty years. It highlighted the passage from the 1960s when development planning was a symbol of autonomy and progress, to the marginalization of these plans which were now substituted during the 1980s by structural adjustment programmes (SAPs). The Committee noted some of the main reasons for the decline of planning which included the inadequate utilization of national planning capacities and potentials both at the subregional and the regional levels. African development plans had depended excessively on external technical and financial assistance. Governments were also unduly concerned with such issues and instruments as balance of payments, prices, credit, monetary issues, exchange rates and external loans. Consequently, the planning process did not adequately include socio-cultural organizations, trade unions, the private sector, particularly in the determination of needs, priorities and development strategies. The collection and analysis of data for short-term management imposed by SAPs also contributed to the unreliability of statistical information particularly at the macro-economic level. The Committee also noted that planning in Africa had failed because of frequent deviations from set objectives and the lack of coherence between set objectives and the modalities for attaining them.

72. Why national development plans had so far failed, and why governments now resorted to structural adjustment programmes needed more serious thought by member States. This was important, the Committee pointed out, because the main reason that member States turned to SAPs was their incapacity to develop programmes that would generate the resources necessary for programme execution.

73. The Committee deplored the fact that despite the long experience with development planning dating from the time of independence, the integrated, multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach to development had not as yet taken root. In many cases, long-term development approaches had not been sufficiently adapted to current realities. In both the preparation and implementation of plans, consultation and the search for consensus in the allocation of scarce resources had not always prevailed. In some administrations, sectoral views had gained the upper hand. There had not been adequate coordination with the other relevant departments, to the detriment of the overall concept. That situation had led to incoherence in the implementation of government actions and the loss of the desired optimum programme impact.

74. The Committee expressed the concern that demographic factors which determined the human resource element in plan implementation had not been adequately taken as an integral part of the planning process, despite the fact that governments spent considerable resources on the collection of such data. Monitoring and

evaluation were also not systematically integrated in the planning process. The assessment of the available national manpower capacity for programme implementation was rarely done.

75. The Committee recommended that thought should be given to the development of a new type of self-reliant and self-sustaining planning which will avoid the failures of the old approaches. This implied careful prioritization of development problems, on the basis of a framework that provided long-term solutions. Continuity of action was indispensable in spite of changes in government departments or in governments themselves. Reduction of excessive dependence on external resources for programme execution was imperative. The planning process should take into consideration the national, subregional and regional dimensions where there could be shared responsibilities for national problems which might have transboundary implications. In this respect the role of government was central to the mobilization of all national actors and the promotion of subregional and regional collective action.

Mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation: public participation in development planning and management [item 5.3 (c)]

76. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/9 entitled "Mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the African Charter for popular participation in development and transformation".

77. It took note of the mechanisms proposed for implementing and monitoring the Charter which included the organization of conferences where grass-roots organizations such as trade unions and women's organizations could discuss the progress and problems encountered in implementing the Charter at national level.

78. At the level of international organizations, ECA had set up a "Focal Point" project to facilitate the implementation of the Charter. In collaboration with mass organizations, the project would assist in organizing meetings to create national consultative mechanisms for fostering the participation of people and their organizations in the formulation and implementation of national development strategies. The project would publish a newsletter and explore the possibilities for electronic communication links.

79. The Committee commended ECA for having initiated the idea of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation and particularly for establishing the mechanisms for monitoring its implementation. It endorsed the project proposals as contained in the document and stressed that the implementation of the project on environment and sustainable development should

include the education of the people in order to involve them fully in environmental management. In that context, it was important to provide them, particularly those in the rural areas, with alternative cheap sources of fuel wood in order to prevent forest destruction.

80. However, the Committee suggested that care should be taken to ensure that there was no conflict of objectives between the project's popular participation promotion concerns and its planned contribution to environmental management for sustainable development. It was further suggested that the project should be coordinated with similar activities such as the follow-up activities of FAO on the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development; the village level environmental management activities of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the UNDP's Africa 2000.

81. In planning for the implementation and monitoring of the African Charter, the Committee suggested that lessons from successes, failures and limitations of past and ongoing participatory development movements or programmes such as Community Development should be taken into consideration in order to ensure the success of the Charter as a tool for the democratization and development of African societies.

82. The Committee also welcomed the "focal point" project which, through the creation of national consultative mechanisms, would facilitate the implementation of the Charter. However, the financial implications caused concern. The Committee suggested that the implementation of the project should start with collaboration between social groups, NGO networks and trade unions, and Governments.

83. Finally, the Committee requested ECA to generate projects on alternative sources of fuel wood, and appealed to UNDP and other institutions to provide financial support for the implementation of the national environment-related projects. The Committee further requested member States to ratify and implement the ILO Conventions on International Labour Standards and suggested that, in order to elicit popular participation in economic planning at regional level, mass organizations should be invited as observers to the meetings of TEPCOW.

Impact of structural adjustment programmes on population [item 5.3 (d)]

84. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered the documents E/ECA/CM.17/10, "Implications of the apparent impact of structural

adjustment programmes (SAPs) on population" and E/ECA/CM.17/27, "Population information programme for ECA member States: Perspectives for the 1990s".

85. It noted that the data contained in the document were exploratory and that the assessment contained therein revealed that a determination of the impact of SAPs on the various population factors was difficult. The relationship between the two was implicit rather than explicit. SAP had not acted as an instrument for alleviating the effects of the current economic crisis in the region. The limited average growth rate of GDP during the SAP period, 1981-1990, was below that of population. That suggested, therefore, that SAPs had had negative impacts on the economies of the African countries that had adopted them, although that was not to say that other countries who did not use SAPs also had their difficulties. As regards the under-5 mortality and average family size, it was noted that the general indication was that, although other factors also influenced both variables, SAPs did not bring about the desired average reduction rates. The unfavourable urban living conditions in the face of SAPs, among other factors, had also tended to encourage urban-rural migration, thus strengthening the case for effective integrated rural development programmes. With regard to food production, SAPs had generally resulted in increased incidence of malnutrition, particularly among children. It was also noted that SAPs seemed to have the effect of lowering standards of education.

86. Some factors that deserved emphasis in future considerations of population policy measures as an integral part of the overall development strategy in African countries were also identified. Among those factors were under-5 mortality, family cohesion, malnutrition, education and employment. It was suggested that utilizing factors so derived would focus population policy measures in the region on the current economic crisis. For AAF-SAP to become fully effective, it should then take into account population factors.

87. The Committee recommended that:

(a) Generalizations about the total negative effect of SAPs should be treated with caution since a few countries had experienced some positive results with SAP;

(b) Appropriate socio-economic studies should be carried out by the secretariat that would be more conclusive in assessing the impact of SAPs on the social sector;

(c) Comparison of the pre-SAP period (1965-1980) with the SAP period (1981-1990) should be done with caution since the two periods are not only different in length, but also in terms of the prevailing international environment;

(d) Member States should give priority to collection of data on the social sector which in turn would permit studies on the social dimension, such as the one that had been attempted in the document discussed by the Committee.

88. The Committee also considered proposed mechanisms contained in document E/ECA/CM.17/27 for developing a viable regional population information programme that would enable the African region to promote the needed awareness and understanding of population and development issues which would be crucial for the region in the 1990s. It took note of the specific recommendations that were advanced, including the need to aggressively support the information programme, and for the donor agencies and institutions, especially UNFPA to support ECA in its efforts to develop, sustain and further develop its indigenous regional knowledge base on population matters.

89. The impact of SAPs had been negative on the social sector. While the necessity of SAPs was recognized, given the state of the economies of most African countries, there was also the need to develop programmes that would mitigate those negative consequences, particularly among the most vulnerable groups in society. The Committee particularly agreed that population factors, the essential needs of the population and employment as well as measures contained in AAF-SAP should be integrated into development plans and should thereby complement SAPs.

90. The Committee adopted draft resolutions 2 (XII) and 3 (XII).

Preparation of the third African Population Conference [item 5.3 (e)]

91. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM/17/6, which was a note from the secretariat on the preparations for the third African Population Conference.

92. It noted that, following the Accra and Arusha Conferences on Population, a third African Population Conference was to be held in 1992 in preparation for the World Population Conference in 1994. In view of the importance of the World Conference, the Committee expressed the hope that preparations in Africa would begin without delay. The financial implications of the required preparations were particularly underlined.

93. The Committee noted and accepted with satisfaction the offer made by Senegal to host the third African Population Conference. It called for a re-examination of the draft budget for the regional preparations for the Conference presented in the secretariat document in light of the offer made by UNFPA to cover the travel

and subsistence cost of participants and the commitment it had also made to assist African participation at the World Conference.

94. The Committee finally recommended that: a Committee of Experts should be set up to prepare the third African Population Conference; the draft budget on the Conference should be examined and amended as necessary before being submitted to the Economic and Social Council; the third African Population Conference should include in its agenda the consideration of issues relating to refugees and migration in Africa.

PART III

ISSUES, STUDIES AND REPORTS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Reorganization of the MULPOCs: Follow-up on the report of the evaluation mission to review the achievements of the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening them and making them more effective [agenda item 6 (a)]

95. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/11 entitled "Reorganization of the MULPOCs: Follow-up on the report of the evaluation mission to review the achievements of the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening them and making them more effective."

96. The Committee took note of the fact that, following the Memorandum on the Report of the Review Team on the Structure, Organization and Operation of the MULPOCs which the Conference of Ministers addressed to ECOSOC in 1990, the Secretary-General had submitted a proposal for additional staff resources for the MULPOCs to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. Eight additional professional posts and ten general service posts had been requested from the regular budget. Those posts were expected to complement the existing staff at the MULPOCs, and would enable them to effectively execute the operational activities defined for them by the member States of the various subregions. The General Assembly had on the recommendation of The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) decided that the proposals would be considered within the context of the 1992-1993 Programme Budget. That would be done on the basis of a clear indication of the specific work programmes of the MULPOCs, their relationship with the ECA secretariat, and a breakdown of the funding sources for the existing posts at each MULPOC.

97. The Committee reiterated the call for practical measures to revitalize and strengthen the MULPOCs. It in particular called on

the African members of ACABQ and the Committee on Programme and Coordination (CPC) to mobilize all the necessary support to ensure that the Secretary-General's proposals on staff and other resources for the MULPOCs were accepted by the General Assembly.

98. The Committee also recommended that measures should be taken to harmonize further the activities of the MULPOCs with those of the respective subregional economic groupings. It also emphasized the need for the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for North Africa, and that efforts should be continued towards that end.

Progress report on the strengthening of the subregional economic integration process and the establishment of the African Economic Community [item 6 (b)]

99. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/12 : Progress report on the strengthening of the subregional economic integration process and the establishment of the African Economic Community.

100. Taking note of the progress made towards the signing of the Treaty for the establishment of the African Economic Community, the Committee reviewed the achievements of the African subregional economic groupings. It observed that, while Africa had made considerable efforts to achieve economic integration, the overall results were still below expectations. Nevertheless, the Committee soundly rejected the suggestion that there was no genuine process of subregional economic integration. It pointed out the achievements of some African subregional economic groupings, such as the PTA and SADCC, which were already making steady progress towards reduction of trade and non-trade barriers, development of common financial instruments (such as PTA traveller's cheques), and other basic mechanisms.

101. Failure to implement these basic mechanisms was still a major cause of weakness in the subregional economic integration process. There was also the need for institutions to adapt their approach to the African realities, and to increase the involvement of socio-economic groups in the economic integration process. Among other things, the Committee felt that issues concerning human resources development and employment would have to be addressed in the future. Particularly, it underscored the fact that long-term integration strategies required a clearer identification and agreement on priority sectors among subregional members. There was additionally the need to "create" intra-African trade, if that could not be done under existing trade patterns, by fully utilizing the existing industrial capacities and natural resources of African countries.

102. The Committee took note of proposals for strengthening cooperation and integration in priority sectors at the subregional level and emphasized that the goals of the African Economic Community would be better achieved if subregional economic groupings were strengthened as recommended in the Treaty. Besides the development of stronger political commitment, there was also the need to examine the leading role to be played by some countries in each subregion, and the role that informal groups of eminent persons could play in the integration process. It strongly recommended that the process of economic integration should be strengthened with a view to achieving the complete structural economic transformation of member States.

Industrial development in Africa

- Progress report on the preparation of the Programme for the United Nations Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa [item 6 (c)]

103. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/13 entitled: Progress report on the preparation of the programme for the United Nations Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II).

104. The Committee took note of the work that had already been done towards the elaboration of the programme for IDDA II. That programme would be adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Industry in June 1991. The Committee commended the secretariats of the ECA, UNIDO and OAU for the progress made in the preparation of the programme. It underlined the importance of the industrial sector in Africa's economic development, and urged African countries to fully integrate the programme for the Second Decade into their overall national development plans. All economic agents should be involved to ensure strong sectoral linkages and should be allocated adequate financial resources for its implementation. While it was recognized that the responsibility for the implementation of the programme rested primarily with the member States, the Committee realized that financial assistance from the international community would be needed. It, therefore, commended the consultations initiated by UNIDO with international financial institutions such as the African Development Bank, the World Bank, UNDP and the European Development Fund, and appealed for the continued support of those and other agencies in the implementation of the Programme.

105. The Committee further stressed that the implementation of the Programme should be coordinated with ongoing programmes in the region, particularly structural adjustment programmes and the UNDP fifth and sixth inter-country programmes for Africa. To the extent

possible, the Decade should involve all economic actors engaged in the industrial sector.

106. The Committee recalled the financial problems encountered by OAU, ECA and UNIDO in assisting member States during the first Industrial Development Decade. It accordingly recommended that for the Second Decade, the General Assembly of the United Nations should ensure that adequate resources were allocated for the provision of such assistance.

107. The Committee finally recommended that the next "Industrialization Day in Africa" should focus on IDDA II.

103. The Committee adopted draft resolution 5 (XII).

Transport and Communications in Africa

- Programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa [item 6 (d)]

109. In considering document E/ECA/CM.17/14 on the above-mentioned subject, the Committee took note of the activities undertaken in preparation for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) since the sixth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Kinshasa in March 1988. The highlights of the background information had been the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of resolution 43/179 proclaiming the period 1991-2000 as the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; the establishment of the Resource Mobilization Committee; the preparatory phase activities of UNTACDA II; the establishment of the National Coordinating Committees (NCCs); and the establishment of seven subsectoral working groups and four subregional working groups.

110. On the activities conducted since the meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers in Tripoli, in May 1990, the Committee noted that attention had been focused on the creation of national coordinating committees and the preparation of subregional and subsectoral strategies. Many technical and consultative meetings had been organized during the period. The work accomplished had been submitted to the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Abuja, during which they had adopted the programme for the second Decade, comprising the global and subsectoral strategies, the target objectives, the terms of reference of the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC), the strategy for implementation, review and appraisal of the Decade programme and the guidelines and procedures

for selecting Decade projects. They had also decided that the implementation of the second Decade programme should be reviewed every three years (mid-term review) and that new projects should be included in the programme every two years in order to make it flexible and to reflect current realities.

111. In Abuja, the Ministers had noted that many NCCs had yet to submit their projects to ECA and that many projects received by ECA did not contain important information. Under the circumstances, the Ministers decided to grant more time to ECA and the RMC to enable them to prepare an initial list of projects to be included in the Decade Programme. They had also decided to hold a special meeting in Addis Ababa on 7 and 8 May 1991 to approve the list. ECA and the RMC members had analysed 1,037 submitted projects, approving 460 of them, rejecting 102 and placing 475 on the waiting list for lacking additional important information.

112. The work of RMC had been approved and endorsed by the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC) during its last meeting in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 April 1991. The list of projects approved would be submitted to the special meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning for endorsement.

113. The Committee noted the resolution on the Decade Programme adopted in Abuja by the Ministers on 8 February 1991, and hoped that the ECA Conference of Ministers would adopt a resolution on the second Decade, and on the revitalization of the Trans-African Highway Bureau, for submission to the Economic and Social Council this year.

114. The OAU, UNDP, ADB and the World Bank were thanked for their efficient contribution to the preparation of the Decade Programme.

115. The Committee thanked the secretariat for the careful preparation of the second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. It also requested clarifications on the review by TEPCOW of the report of the transport experts' meeting given that both meetings were being held concurrently. It also raised the issue of the low participation of member States in the West African meeting held in Ouagadougou and on the nature of the projects to be submitted for the Decade.

116. The observer from UNIDO commended the cooperation between his organization and ECA, and suggested that a working group should be set up on the manufacture of transport and communication equipments.

117. Responding to questions raised by the Committee, the Executive Secretary of ECA emphasized that the Committee had the report of the Abuja meeting on the Decade Programme and that the meeting of

transport experts which was being held at the same time as the Committee was dealing with the projects of phase I of the Decade. The report of that meeting would be submitted to the meeting of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning to be held on 7 and 8 May. Finally, the report of the Ministers' meeting would be submitted directly to the Ministers of Planning. He also stressed that the usual thing would be to submit to the Committee all the reports of the subsidiary organs before the submission of such reports to the Ministers of Planning, but that there existed a convention which allowed for the submission to the Ministers of Planning reports adopted by other Ministers.

118. In response to a question on the low level of representation at the West African subregional meeting, the Committee was informed that ECOWAS, and not ECA, had been entrusted with its organization. Since the work programme of ECOWAS had not allowed it to adequately prepare the meeting, the expected projects had not been submitted on time. ECOWAS, however, had undertaken an additional and conclusive mission. It was specified that in order to avoid changes in priorities, national projects were accepted in the Decade programme only if, among other things, the countries provided part of their financing.

119. The Committee adopted draft resolution 6 (XII).

Natural Resources and Environment in Africa [item 6(e)]

Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (MPAP) including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in Africa (1981-1990) and perspective for the 1990s [item 6 (e) (i)]

120. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/15 and noted the progress made in the development of the water sector within the framework of MPAP during the 1981-1990 Decade. It also considered the challenges that should be dealt with in the 1990s to achieve a higher rate of implementation.

121. The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 1981-1990 (IDWSSD) had fallen short of expectations, notably in the rural areas. The implementation period of the Decade had witnessed an increase in the size of unserved population. Should past trends continue, the target of providing clean water and sanitation for all by the year 2000 would be very difficult to achieve. Hence there was the need to be selective in setting future targets and to carefully prepare the future strategy.

122. The Committee also took note of the main features to be considered in that strategy. These included the establishment of realistic targets by governments, promotion of population and family planning policies, adoption of low-cost technologies, introduction of cost-sharing mechanisms by means of tariff policies, increased community participation particularly by rural women in areas where the need was greatest, and integration of drinking water and sanitation programmes both in the context of national planning and that of environment and sustainable development. The commercialization of the maintenance and operation of water supply systems and orientation to the rural sector were perceived as sound approaches that would ensure sustainability.

123. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for the quality of its work. The speedy privatization of the maintenance and operation of water supply systems would help to achieve the objective of food self-sufficiency, notably where the cost recovery might lead to a shift from food crops to commercial crop production. In subregions such as that of the Sahel, such management should be the responsibility of the concerned population.

Report on the preparations in Africa for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 [item 6 (e) (ii)]

124. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/16.

125. It recalled resolution 44/228 by which the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to convene a Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 in Brazil. It noted that the theme Environment and Development was chosen because hitherto environment issues were treated in isolation of the development process, despite the fact that many development activities had an environmental impact. The Committee further noted that the Conference constituted a twenty-year review of progress since the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972. It was also a logical follow-up of the activities of the World Commission on Environment and Development which the General Assembly endorsed by its resolution 42/187 on Environment and Development. The First African Regional Conference on Environment and Development had been one of the outcomes of that process.

126. The significant differences between Stockholm 1972 and Brazil 1992 were that the 1972 Conference was devoted to the environment in general without the identification of issues. For 1992, nine issues of global concern had been identified, which included protection of oceans and fresh water, biological diversity and

biotechnology, waste management, environmental health, climate change, desertification and the living environment. The 1972 Conference was also, to a large extent, an intergovernmental Conference, whereas 1992 would see a Conference on "Earth summit", and a Conference at the level of Heads of State and Government in which the "independent sectors", that is NGOs, trade unions, business and all those whose activities, in one way or another, had an environmental impact, would participate.

127. The Committee observed that environment had become a vehicle of development, and had proved influential in negotiations on international economic relations and technical assistance. That would be an important factor in the situation that should prevail in Europe after the creation of the European Community.

128. The Committee reviewed the evolution of an African Environment Agenda (AEA). It noted that the Agenda was an outcome of the aggregation of member States' declarations and resolutions which affected the environment. These included the Monrovia Declaration on the Social and Economic Development of Africa 1979, the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) and Final Act of Lagos (FAL) (1980), the Ministerial Conference on Desertification (COMIDES-1984), the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN-1985), the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER-1986), the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD-1986), the Kampala Agenda of Action for Sustainable Development (1989), the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP, 1989), the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development (1990) and the Bamako Commitment of the OAU Pan-African Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development of January 1991.

129. The Committee further noted that, apart from declarations and resolutions, the AEA demonstrated the fact that Africa had not been inactive on environmental matters. Other national, subregional and regional programme initiatives were gaining ground in the areas of environmental awareness, support from NGOs, intra-African exchanges of experience, popular participation and democratization of environmental action, enhancement of opportunities for women, and resource mobilization through environment-focused intergovernmental organizations.

130. The Committee further reviewed the African Environment Agenda within the context of six UNCED action areas, namely the Conventions on Climate change, bio-diversity and forestry, "Agenda 21" (providing measures for implementation of the principles contained in the Earth Charter), financial resources, technology transfer and measures for strengthening existing institutions. It recommended that in the negotiations taking place on the agenda of UNCED, the focus should be on the benefits Africa would derive from

the different actions, and on how it could contribute to the global impact of those actions. The Committee further observed that the questions on the choice of environmentally safe technologies should be of utmost importance.

131. The Committee stressed the importance of building awareness on environmental issues, particularly among young people and women. It further emphasized the importance of offering alternatives to destructive environmental exploitation, especially when the environment seemed to be the only source of such necessities as energy and food, and cautioned that such exploitation should not neglect the protection of the atmosphere.

132. The Committee reviewed the programme of preparations for the Conference. It considered the documentation; liaison arrangements with OAU in seeking the endorsement of African Heads of State and Government; promotional activities, and the agenda of the preparatory Conference. It noted with satisfaction that member States, assisted by the local UNDP offices, were taking part in the preparations by writing country reports and attending the UNCED Preparatory Committee.

133. The Committee felt that it was important for Africa to be judicious in its interpretation of issues of environment and development as well as in the choice of its priorities for the Conference. Both the impact of development activities on the environment and their contribution to development should be examined. In so doing the sectoral approach should give way to an integrated one which, in turn, should be adapted to development programmes.

134. The Committee finally recommended that, to ensure harmonization of the African position, ECA should exchange information with the other agencies of the United Nations system that were developing programmes for presentation to UNCED.

135. The Committee adopted draft resolution 8 (XII).

Social development and humanitarian affairs [item 6 (f)]

The state of social development in Africa in the 1980s and the policy challenges for the 1990s [item 6 (f) (i)]

136. Document E/ECA/CM.17/17 considered by the Committee under agenda item 6 (f) (i) was entitled: "The Status of Social Development in Africa in the 1980s and Prospects for the 1990s:

Modalities of Policy Coordination Policies and Implementation by Social Sector Institutions".

137. In the first part of the document, the Committee reviewed the major variables of the sector, such as education and literacy programmes, demographic variables, health and nutrition and employment and income levels. Stress was laid on the situation of vulnerable social groups such as women, refugees, displaced persons and young people. Generally, the Committee concluded that the economic and social crisis in Africa had had and would continue to have disastrous effects on the people. This was reflected in the continuous deterioration of educational systems in the continent, increases in population growth to alarming levels, the existence of infant mortality rates which were the highest in the world; declining health and nutrition standards, and excessive unemployment accompanied by the ever-declining per capita income levels. These problems were often worsened by a number of social catastrophes such as civil wars and social conflicts.

138. In the second part, the Committee reviewed the challenges confronting Africa in the 1990s. It was unanimously agreed that priority should be given to the formulation of policies for promoting the social sector in Africa, and to the coordination and implementation of such policies by institutions in the social sector. To this end, expenditures made by States on the sector should no longer be considered as a luxury, but rather as an investment without which the sound development and structural transformation of African economies could not be achieved. The four areas requiring the immediate attention of policy-makers, were, education, health, employment and population issues.

139. During the discussion, the Committee noted that, generally, the social sector in Africa had not been given due attention by African leaders. Nevertheless, there was consensus on the importance of the social sector and on the fact that new initiatives should be taken, especially at the national level, where political, social and economic actors should be sensitized accordingly.

140. The strategic importance of education in Africa was unanimously acclaimed. The Committee, however, regretted that the efforts made focused on the quantitative aspect of the problem at the expense of the qualitative aspect. Education should be reoriented accordingly. Similarly, greater efforts should be made to eliminate illiteracy, especially among women, since the ability of women to read and write had a direct impact on the other social variables.

141. The Committee also paid attention to the problem of unemployment, whose current rate and prospects in Africa constituted a challenge which countries should make every effort to

address. That could be done by including labour-intensive projects in their economic and social development plans. It might also be necessary to attack the population problem at its roots by resorting, inter alia, to improving health systems. Those should be oriented not only to the curative aspects, but also to the preventive ones, so that some measure of confidence in the people would be inspired.

142. The discussions on the vulnerable social groups showed that the Committee wanted African countries to plan special programmes for assisting such groups, as was already being done in certain countries. In order to address all aspects of the problem, however, there was a need for countries to start with reliable data.

143. The following recommendations were made:

(a) African educational systems should be focused equally on the quantitative and qualitative aspects of teaching;

(b) Adult-literacy programmes should be strengthened, especially for women, given their influence on the other demographic variables;

(c) The Committee should prepare a resolution for the Ministers requesting Africa's development to give priority to the development of the social sector in Africa.

144. The Committee adopted draft resolution 9 (XII).

Changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women [item 6 (f) (ii)]

145. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/18 on the changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women.

146. This document had been prepared pursuant to resolution 42/62 of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Nairobi forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women. In paragraph 9 of that resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for the United Nations to develop an integrated system for the establishment of reports, centred on the Commission on the Status of Women. That system would take advantage of existing information and resources in order to ensure the follow-up, review and appraisal of progress made in the advancement of women, based on a clear and attractive series of statistical and other measurable

indicators. Such indicators should enable member States to identify problems, and devise appropriate measures at the national, regional and international levels.

147. The Committee considered that the document presented a conceptual framework for long-term objectives of strategies such as equality, development and peace. The situation of women in political life and decision-making, as well as the sectoral analysis of the present situation of women in the areas of education, employment and industry, was also analyzed. Issues relating to rights and legislation as well as progress made at the international level, were additionally considered by the Committee.

148. The Committee noted that information on certain countries had been omitted and suggested that ECA might, in future, secure from the embassies in Addis Ababa information to complete its data. It was recommended that macro-economic analyses on the role of women in all sectors must be systematically carried out as a prerequisite for ensuring that women's concerns were incorporated in all aspects of development planning and for monitoring the impact of policy on women.

149. The Committee hoped that a detailed and complete analysis of the situation of women in the overall development process would be conducted, and called upon African women to secure, through better education, their rightful place in society.

Operational activities

- Report on ECA-executed technical co-operation projects [item 6 (g)]

150. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/9.

151. The Committee reviewed ECA's technical cooperation activities in Africa for the period 1989-1990. In the light of the general deterioration in economic and social conditions in Africa in the daunting prospects of the 1990s, urgent initiatives were needed in the technical cooperation areas. This was particularly the case with respect to the identification and prioritization of problems, the mobilization of resources and the allocation of such resources among the various sectors into which ECA was to direct its technical assistance efforts.

152. The Committee noted with satisfaction that despite the unfavourable environment, ECA had successfully managed to mobilize substantial resources from diverse sources, notably from UNDP, UNFPA, UNTFAD and bilateral sources. Currently, ECA was managing

a portfolio of 176 technical cooperation projects, spread over a range of sectors crucial to African development. The Committee appealed to donors to increase their assistance to ECA, and called for greater efforts to generate the resources required for the financing of its subregional and regional projects and other technical cooperation projects. In that context, the Committee commended UNDP - the main source of funding for such activities - for its sustained assistance to ECA and member States.

153. The new orientation being given by UNDP to programme and project execution, known as "national/government execution", was welcomed by the Committee. UNDP had adopted the programme approach, as opposed to the project approach used so far. However, the Committee warned against some conflicts which could arise under the new implementation modality, such as possible conflicts between the national programme managers and the national programme directors.

154. The Executive Secretary thanked all the donors, including the United Nations agencies, who had contributed to the strengthening of ECA's role as a major executing agency among the United Nations institutions operating in Africa. He commended the spirit and the quality of the cooperation that ECA had had with all those sources of funding in general and with the Regional Bureau for Africa of UNDP and UNFPA in particular. UNDP and UNFPA had played a major role in providing financial and technical support to the ECA-sponsored institutions and to the African subregional economic groupings. By supporting their multisectoral projects, UNDP had strengthened the African economic integration process. Member States' contributions to UNTFAD had also been satisfactory; however, African contributions needed to be significantly stepped up during the forthcoming UNTFAD pledging conference in order to demonstrate to the international community that member States were resolutely committed to African development.

PART IV

ISSUES FROM SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND SECTORAL BODIES OF THE COMMISSION CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS (agenda item 7)

155. The Committee considered documents E/ECA/CM.17/21 and E/ECA/CM.17/21/Add.1.

156. It noted that the subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies which had held meetings since the last session of the Commission and whose reports were not the subject of separate items of the agenda of the present meeting were: the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment; the Regional

Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa; the Conference of African Ministers of Trade; the Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development; the Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions; the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS; and the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts of the five MULPOCs.

157. The Committee took note of the decisions, conclusions, recommendations and resolutions made by the above organs. It underlined in particular the importance of mineral resources exploitation in African overall economic development. It recommended that a comprehensive resolution be adopted on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations made by the Fourth Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa with a view to revitalizing the sector.

158. The Committee expressed concern at the low level of participation and, in some cases, the inadequate preparations made for some meetings. It urged that an appropriate mechanism for consultation between the secretariat and embassies in Addis Ababa should be established to enhance the effectiveness of all meetings.

159. The Committee appreciated the fact that the appropriate organs of the United Nations were considering the question of additional resources to strengthen the MULPOCs. It strongly urged member States represented in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly to support the proposals for the strengthening of the Centres that were before those organs so that the required resources were made available.

160. The Committee urged that there should be closer coordination of work between the MULPOCs and IGOs so as to avoid duplication of activities in the future. In that respect, it was agreed that studies already carried out, particularly in the MULPOC of Niamey, should be listed and made available to member States for reference purposes.

161. The Committee adopted draft resolutions 4 (XII), 7 (XII), 10 (XII), 11 (XII), and 12 (XII).

PART V

STATUTORY ISSUES

Follow-up action on relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission, the General Assembly and ECOSOC that are of interest to Africa (agenda item 8)

Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers [item 8 (a)]

162. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/22.

163. The Committee noted that with regard to projects developed as a result of resolution 678 (XXV) on UNTFAD accumulated interest, one had been completed, five were at various levels of implementation and two were pending, following approval by the ECA Project Analysis and Approval Committee. With regard to resolution 679 (XXV) on Information flows in the African region, 34 member States had since designated national centres which would participate in the PADIS network. The national participating centres had increased their contributions to the information system. PADIS had also benefited from the office automation programme of ECA which was being implemented in 1991. Progress had also been made towards the establishment of WADIS in Niamey.

164. The Committee also noted that, concerning the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s adopted by the Commission in resolution 683 (XXV), both the English and French versions had been printed and sent to all African Governments. Their attention was specifically drawn to those recommendations which ECA considered highly important. The Committee took note of the approval by UNDP of a statistical development project under the Addis Ababa Plan of Action. The project would enable ECA to continue its assistance to member States in those sectors where statistics needed to be developed. An intergovernmental meeting would be organized shortly on the implementation of the Plan of Action, where future activities would be decided upon.

165. At its previous meeting, the Conference of Ministers had adopted resolutions 684 (XXV), 685 (XXV), 686 (XXV), 687 (XXV) and 697 (XXV) on women in development. In this regard, the Committee noted that the Abuja Declaration had now been published in English, French and Arabic and had been sent to all member States,

subregional economic groupings and women's advancement institutions. The Committee noted that, with regard to the question of women in the informal sector, ECA had organized national seminars in four pilot countries namely, Burkina Faso, the Congo, the Gambia, and Zambia during September/October 1990. The seminars had brought together officials of women's groups and NGOs to formulate guidelines for action in policy-making, training and statistics on the informal sector.

166. Under resolution 691 (XXV), ECA had widely disseminated the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation both in Africa and abroad, and had taken measures to set up a liaison centre at ECA for promoting popular participation in development, and for monitoring the implementation of the Charter. Under resolution 698 (XXV), ECA had organized special multi-sectoral missions to all member States to collect current data on UN-PAAERD. On the basis of the information gathered, a document reviewing the implementation of the Action Programme had been prepared, and had been submitted to an intergovernmental group of experts for the final review and appraisal of UN-PAAERD.

167. With regard to the implementation of resolution 699(XXV) on Strengthening the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHFTR), the Committee noted that the management of the Institute had been streamlined to give a fresh direction and a new impetus to the Institute. Member States had since shown considerable goodwill towards the institution and a desire to see it succeed. The Committee accordingly urged member States to pay their contributions to the Institute.

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1990 and by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa [item 8 (b)]

168. The Committee took note of the resolutions and decisions adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly at their last sessions as contained in document E/ECA/CM.17/23.

169. The Committee appreciated the increasing difficulties with which resolutions with financial implications were adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly. It, therefore, expressed gratitude for the efforts made by the African Groups in Geneva and New York which enabled all ECA resolutions presented to ECOSOC and the General Assembly to be adopted, even including those with financial implications. The Committee urged member States

represented in those organs to continue their support to the Commission.

Staff and administrative questions (agenda item 9)

170. The document on Staff and administrative matters, document E/ECA/CM.17/24, was presented to the Committee.

171. The Committee noted that with respect to the geographical distribution of posts, the secretariat had made great efforts to maintain a fair balance between the staff from outside Africa and those from Africa. The vacancy rate had been significantly reduced and the training, staff and career development opportunities had improved. With the promise of Japan to provide $US 200,000 for this purpose, this improvement would be further enhanced. It also noted with satisfaction that the status of women in the secretariat had also improved, and the number of professional posts occupied by women had increased.

172. The Committee was pleased to observe that the conference facilities were also being improved in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 42/211. The construction of the new Conference Centre was already under way. Internally, the secretariat was also working on improving the staffing situation of the conference services section.

173. The Committee also noted with satisfaction that the automation exercise was well advanced in the secretariat. There had been a considerable increase in the number of micro-computers available to staff, and the printing facilities had been greatly improved. It hoped that, with expected increases in resources, those improvements would be enhanced.

PART VI

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE COMMISSION

Proposed programme of work and priorities for the 1992-1993 biennium (agenda item 10 (a))

174. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/25/Rev.1, "Proposed Programme of Work and Priorities for the Biennium 1992-1993".

175. The Committee endorsed the proposals contained in the document and appealed to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) to support them as well as those to be made under the Programme on Africa's Critical Economic Situation, Recovery and Development, which would be implemented jointly by the offices of the Director-General, the Department of Public Information as well as the ECA.

176. It appealed to CPC and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) to ensure that adequate resources were made available to ECA to implement both programmes, and in particular to ensure that the focus of the implementation of the Programme on Africa's Critical Economic Situation, Recovery and Development was at ECA.

177. The Committee adopted draft resolution 13(XII).

ECA Advisory Services : The Challenges for the 1990s [(agenda item 10 (b)]

178. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/26 on ECA Advisory Services: the challenges for the 1990s.

179. The Committee was made aware of the significant changes which were currently occurring in the approach of the United Nations to operational activities. Those changes were designed to render the system more responsive and effective in meeting the challenges facing developing countries in the 1990s. The implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211, entitled "Comprehensive biennial review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system" was central to those changes. The resolution aimed at placing full responsibility for development within countries themselves, and at directing technical assistance of the United Nations to that level. The lack of a regional dimension in the resolution had given rise to consideration as to what the commissions might do in support of the multidisciplinary approach encouraged by the resolution, and what improvements in the legislative mandates of the commissions might be required to complement resolution 44/211.

180. In considering the first issue, the Committee noted with satisfaction the establishment by ECA of its new Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG) which was based at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. ECA-MRAG regrouped ECA's traditional regional advisers into a team entrusted with the task of providing coherent and flexible solutions to the problems facing member States. The Group was a team of senior experts under the personal direction of the Executive Secretary and whose broad experience would allow African policy-makers to take into account the regional and subregional objectives of, for example, the Lagos

Plan of Action, and the African Economic Community, in their national programmes and strategies. While the composition of the Group would vary depending on the needs expressed by countries, at present experts were drawn from the areas of macro-economics; food and agriculture; development finance and debt management; public administration; statistics and the application of national accounts to development; environment and development; energy; social and human resource aspects of structural adjustment and transformation; and regional economic cooperation and integration. While at present there were no specific experts in some areas such as population in ECA-MRAG, it was recognized that the Group would draw on the skills available in the substantive ECA Divisions.

181. The Committee urged member States and their intergovernmental organizations to take advantage of the advisory services of the Group by sending requests concerning problem areas to the Executive Secretary in Addis Ababa, or through the MULPOC offices.

182. With regard to the examination of the mandate of the regional commissions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) The mandates provided in resolution 32/197 for the regional commissions should be updated by a new resolution, generated by the Economic and Social Council, and adopted by the General Assembly;

(b) The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should explore the possibility of convening an ad hoc group of high-level experts during the second half of 1991 to discuss the revision of the mandate of the regional commissions, and make recommendations;

(c) Agencies of the United Nations system and of the United Nations secretariat involved in technical assistance should meaningfully decentralize staff and establish joint units, sections or divisions with the secretariats of the commissions in general and with ECA in particular, especially, within the context of the implementation of the Special Programme on African Recovery; and

(d) The funding mechanisms of the regional commissions should be reviewed.

183. The Committee took note that a joint position was being formulated on this issue by the regional commissions. A study on the regional dimensions of development was being undertaken by the Director-General for International and Economic Cooperation (DG/DIEC), in close collaboration with the regional commissions and with other United Nations organizations and agencies. The DG/DIEC would bring to the attention of the General Assembly, through ECOSOC, his analysis and recommendations in his annual report for

1991. The Committee urged that this study should take into account the recommendations cited above.

194. The Committee adopted draft resolution 14 (XII).

PART VII

PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (UNTFAD)

Progress report on the implementation of UNTFAD-funded projects, 1990-1991 [agenda item 11 (a)]

Proposals for utilization of UNTFAD resources during the period 1992-1993 [agenda item 11 (b)]

185. The Committee considered documents E/ECA/CM.17/28, E/ECA/CM.17/28/Corr.1 and E/ECA/CM.17/29.

186. The Committee took note of the progress made in respect of the utilization of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) resources in 1989 and 1990. During that period, resources utilized to finance project activities amounted to $US 1,283,084 which represented the balance from previous contributions, payments effected in 1988 and 1989, and part of the accumulated interest on UNTFAD's general and specific accounts. The Committee commended the ECA secretariat for its judicious use of the resources. It noted that the progress report did not contain detailed information on : the status of implementation of the operational projects financed within the framework of the ECA programme of work and priorities; and financial statements concerning the general and specific funds as well as the accrued interest on those funds. However, it also recognized that the report must necessarily be short and concise.

187. The Committee reviewed the areas on which UNTFAD resources would concentrate during the biennium 1992-1993. The areas included the development of human resources; the development of agricultural capabilities and capacity to address the recurrent problems of famine in the continent; the development of a self-reliant and sustainable industrialization; the strengthening of essential institutional social and physical services for enabling self-reliant and self-sustaining development; and, the development of projects designed to break new ground for subregional cooperation and integration. It, however, considered that the areas were rather general, and it was suggested that information on concrete projects should be provided in future reports.

188. The Committee appealed to member States to increase their contributions to UNTFAD during the pledging conference to be held on 13 May 1991 so that the activities envisaged in the 1992-1993 biennium would be adequately funded. It recognized that substantive contributions to the Fund could be in financial terms or in kind. The Governments of countries hosting the MULPOC offices were free to pay their pledges in local currency.

189. The Committee noted with appreciation that Uganda and Zambia had paid its arrears, and that Guinea was in the process of paying. It also noted with appreciation the intention expressed by several countries that they would announce their contributions at the forthcoming pledging conference.

190. Finally, the Committee, noted the great degree of flexibility accorded to the countries in general and to those hosting the MULPOC offices, in particular, for the payment of the amounts pledged. It urged member States and donors to pledge regularly, and to pay those pledges in a timely manner. It looked forward to further increases in the level of contributions.

191. The Committee adopted draft resolution 15(XII).

Regional programme for the placement of African experts: a proposal [agenda item 11 (c)]

192. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/30, which contained a proposal for a regional programme for the placement of African experts. The Committee was informed that the purpose of the project was to prevent the emigration of skilled manpower from the region by offering those who would otherwise have migrated the possibility of practising their profession in Africa. The initiative would reduce the brain drain while helping African countries mitigate the problem of skill shortages.

193. The Committee noted that the proposal was based on the concept that most victims of the brain drain would rather settle in another country within the continent than migrate to countries outside the region, especially Europe and North America. It was recalled that in the African Declaration on Cooperation, Development and Economic Independence adopted in 1973, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU had come out in favour of the establishment of an Intra-African Technical Cooperation Bureau, which would enable African countries with a surplus of skilled personnel to make them available to other African countries needing their services. That would also give Africans the possibility of broadening their experience and would foster the spirit of cooperation and solidarity among African countries. It was pointed out that there were currently some 100,000 African experts working in developed

countries. Experts in Europe in particular might face considerable difficulties when the Single European Act came into force. Africa needed the services of those experts, and that was one of the contexts against which the relevance of the proposed programme could be seen.

194. The programme was proposed for funding from UNTFAD and resources made available would be used to cover inducement, travel, insurance, bonus and other costs amounting to a total of $US 9,100 per placement.

195. The Committee found the proposal would indeed be relevant if it could help stem the drain of skilled African manpower towards countries of the North and facilitate the settlement of African experts in African countries. That represented a form of intra-African cooperation in the use of skilled manpower. Accordingly, the Committee expressed its support in principle for the concept of the programme, but requested that further studies on the detailed implications of the project be undertaken and submitted to its next meeting. The studies should inter alia examine the chances of success that the project had in the context of the deteriorating socio-economic conditions in African countries, the increasing unemployment of graduates and the importance that African countries attached to remittances from their nationals working abroad.

Orientation Paper for the UNDP Fifth Intercountry Programme for Africa (1992-1996) (agenda item 12)

196. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.17/20, which outlined the priority areas of the UNDP Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa, as well as the modalities and timetable for its preparation and implementation.

197. The Committee expressed its appreciation to UNDP for assisting member States in their efforts at socio-economic development. However, it noted with great concern the reduction in the allocation of resources from $US 226.1 million for the Fourth Cycle to $US 181.4 million for the Fifth Cycle, and urged UNDP to redress that situation.

198. The Committee endorsed the priority areas as defined in the orientation paper. A concern was expressed by some members that the energy sector was not a priority under the programme. This concern was allayed with the explanation that energy matters were implicit under the regional integration theme. The Committee requested UNDP to give due consideration to the consolidation of projects started during the Fourth Cycle.

199. The Committee noted with satisfaction the decision to aim for sustainability in the implementation of UNDP-funded programmes and projects by entrusting where possible the role of executing agencies to African institutions. The Committee also noted that ESAMI was a successful example of the effects of this new approach of national execution on the institutions in terms of optimization of project objectives, institution-building as well as institutional self-reliance and sustainability. It underlined the need for UNDP to assist in creating the enabling environment which would allow national execution to become a reality and a success.

200. The Committee urged UNDP to adhere to the timetable leading to the approval of the Fifth Cycle Inter-country Programme and to make every effort to prevent the delays that had occurred during the definition and approval of some projects for the Fourth Cycle.

201. The Committee reiterated its request for coordination between the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States to be strengthened through better project integration. This was particularly essential when there were differences in the definition of priority areas by the two bureaux. It accordingly urged UNDP to ensure such coordination between the two bureaux so that its intervention in the two parts of Africa was well integrated.

202. The Committee noted with satisfaction the excellent consultation mechanism used in the preparation of the Fifth Cycle and the existence of good working relations between ECA and UNDP on the one hand and between UNDP, UN agencies and IGOs on the other.

203. On the issue of the reduction of resources, the Committee was informed that that was due mainly to the allocation of more resources to the country Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) for the 29 least developed countries in Africa. It was also pointed out that, with the programme approach to be followed in the Fifth Cycle, the contribution of UNDP would play the role of seed money, attracting more partners to cost-sharing arrangements.

204. The Committee recommended the orientation paper for endorsement by the Conference of Ministers and adopted draft resolution 16(XII).

Any other business (agenda item 13)

205. No issue was raised under this item.

Date and venue of the thirteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 14)

206. The Executive Secretary of ECA explained to the Committee that in accordance with the rules of rotation, every other meeting of the Conference of Ministers should be held outside the ECA headquarters. As the last three meetings had been held in Central Africa (Cameroon, 1986), West Africa (the Niger, 1988) and in North Africa (the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 1990), priority should be given to East Africa and Southern Africa as the venue for the next meeting of the Conference. That venue would be decided after consultations by the Conference of Ministers. He indicated that the next meeting would probably take place in April 1992, after the month of Ramadan.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 15)

207. On 7 May 1991, the Committee adopted the present report together with draft resolutions and the Memorandum contained in annex I and II respectively for consideration by the Conference of Ministers.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 16)

208. The Chairman expressed gratitude to the Bureau and to all delegates, members of the secretariat and all the technical staff for the support and cooperation in making the meeting such a success. He underlined the democratic spirit with which the decisions of the Committee were arrived at. The message, he said, was quite clear. Africa's development rested primarily on its own efforts. There was, in particular, need to enhance the economic cooperation and integration process, especially by strengthening the various institutions.

209. He then declared the meeting closed.

ANNEX I

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

1 (XII). IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAGOS PLAN OF ACTION (LPA) AND THE FINAL ACT OF LAGOS (FAL) AT NATIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos by the Assembly of the OAU Heads of State and Government, in Lagos in 1980 as the basic programme for socio-economic development and integration of the African economies,

Recalling also the decennial review and appraisal of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos undertaken by the high-level expert group meeting organized in Lagos, Nigeria, from 6 to 8 December 1990 by the OAU, ECA and ADB,

Taking note of the recommendations made by the experts with a view to revitalizing the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

Convinced that the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos whose objectives, priorities and strategies are still valid for the 1990s and beyond, are and remain the blue-print for Africa's future socio-economic development,

Noting with concern that the majority of African countries have not incorporated the principles of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos into their policies, plans and programmes,

1. Reaffirms its faith in and full adherence to the spirit of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos as Africa's basic programme for socio-economic development and transformation in the 1990s and beyond;

2. Further reaffirms that the review and appraisal exercise was not meant to change the basic text of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos but rather to highlight additional areas of focus;

3. Recommends that all national Governments should base their short-, medium- and long-term development plans, programmes and policies on the content of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos as well as additional areas of focus, namely: African cultural dimension, human resources development especially education, popular participation particularly greater participation of women in development, strengthening the democratization processes, and mobilization of internal and external financial resources for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos;

4. Calls on all national Governments to give adequate publicity to the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos by distributing the document to all their agencies, institutions of higher learning and local authorities so as to assist them in

planning and to hold periodic seminars, workshops and conferences on the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Secretary-General of the OAU and the President of the ADB to jointly monitor the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos by member States and submit reports to the ECA Conference of Ministers and through them to the OAU Summit of Heads of State and Government every two years starting from 1992;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Secretary-General of OAU and the President of ADB to undertake jointly, a comprehensive and sectoral review of the LPA and FAL and to report thereon biennially with effect from 1992 to the ECA Conference of Ministers and, through it, to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU;

7. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the Expert Group meeting and to the OAU, ECA and ADB for jointly organizing that meeting to review and appraise the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

2 (XII). PROPOSED UNFPA TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAMS

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling ECOSOC's resolution 671 (XXV) of 25 April 1958 which established the Economic Commission for Africa and assigned to it, inter alia, the task of facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, and maintaining and strengthening economic cooperation in the region (including its social aspects) with other regions,

Recalling the provisions of the General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 1977 which defined the regional commissions as centres for general economic and social development in their respective regions, and mandated them to exercising team leadership and responsibility for coordination at the regional level,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 1979 which granted the regional commissions executing agency status in their own right,

Noting that the existing mandates and structures at subregional and regional levels for providing linkages across disciplines implement the intent of resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, so that any modification having an impact on the functions and structures of the regional commissions would conflict with this intention,

Recalling also resolution 311 (XIII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers establishing the MULPOCs with the tasks of intensifying and diversifying international economic cooperation among the countries in the region, and, providing potential opportunities for sustainable economic development process in each country,

Taking note with satisfaction the efforts made by ECA to establish the MULPOCs whose structures have created institutions for decentralization at subregional level,

Mindful of General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 1989 on the comprehensive triennial review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system whose provisions have yet to be aligned with resolution 32/197 with regard to the role of regional commissions,

Noting the appreciation of member States for the services rendered by the ECA regional advisers on population policy and in the areas of data collection, training, research and information dissemination,

Concerned that the proposed system might result in proliferation of structures and so cause confusion for recipients as well as for competent operational agencies in the United Nations system,

Aware of the negative impact the suggested system would have on integrated approaches to regional development,

Aware also that the United Nations, including its regional commissions, is still engaged in discussions with UNFPA on the proposal for successor arrangements for agency support costs,

1. Appeals to the UNDP Governing Council to consider the pre-eminence of the regional commissions in matters relating to regional cooperation, and resolve with UNFPA the anomalies being caused by the proposed arrangements; and thus

2. Recommends that in the interest of proper coordination and effective harmonization of the various population factors at the regional level and achieving cost effectiveness, the proposed UNFPA technical support teams should be co-ordinated by ECA and be located at the ECA MULPOCs which are already operational and represent the legitimate institutional network of the United Nations at the subregional levels;

3. Calls upon the ECA member States who are members of the UNDP Governing Council to raise with the Council the importance of the above-mentioned recommendations and to urge it to take up this matter with UNFPA at the earliest opportunity.

3 (XII). STRENGTHENING POPULATION INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURES IN SUPPORT OF POPULATION PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the provision of the Lagos Plan of Action for the socio-economic development of Africa, 1980-2000 (LPA) and the Final Act of Lagos (FAL) which indicated that population programmes aimed at improving the quality of life should be based on a true knowledge covering the most important social, economic and demographic factors,

and noting its continuing relevance for addressing the development issues of the African region for the 1990s,

Recalling further the provisions of ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 506 (XIX) of 1984 on the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action and self-reliant development which among other things, attached great importance to the KPA and consequently appealed to UNFPA and other donor agencies to help provide the resources needed for implementing the population programme in Africa,

Noting the prevailing favourable disposition towards population/development programmes and wishing to encourage more member States to formulate population policies and implement population/development integration programmes as a means to ensure a more balanced development planning for Africa,

Anxious that the African region should continue its efforts to develop and sustain indigenous structures and facilities to support its regional population programme whose eventual goal is to assist member States to create and maintain appropriate mechanisms for integrating population programmes into socio-economic development planning efforts,

Noting the priorities specified in document E/ECA/CM.16/34 and endorsed by the sixteenth session of the ECA Conference of Ministers 1/

Noting also the value of information, education and communication activities in developmental work in general, and in population programmes in particular as indicated in the Amsterdam Declaration of 1989 on the theme of "a better life for future generations",

Conscious of the deficient, and in some cases, non-existent population information infrastructures to support viable population programmes in the region,

Anxious to redress this unsatisfactory situation through the creation of population information knowledge bases and systems at national, subregional and regional levels which could support the existing population programmes by facilitating the dissemination of population data and information, stimulating national interest, and creating awareness of the population and development concerns of the region among policy-makers, programme\project officers, the media and the general public,

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1/ The identified five priority areas for the 1990s included: (a) socio-economic development and national population programmes, (b) studies on population dynamics, (c) integration of population variables and policies in developing planning, (d) data collection, training and research and (e) information dissemination.

Aware of the efforts made by the POPIN-Africa project in contributing to information sharing in support of population and socio-economic development programmes in the region, and anxious that this work should continue to improve the flow of population information and data among member States,

1. Urges member States to create national information centres by developing structures, mechanisms and linkages which could facilitate the collection, processing and dissemination of national population information and data;

2. Urges further that member States should become more committed to and actively participate in the regional population information programme, thus contributing to efforts to improve the flow of population information and data in the African region in particular and the world as a whole;

3. Calls on UNFPA and other donor governments and agencies to further assist in strengthening POPIN-Africa to continue its operations to develop regional, subregional and national capacities for information sharing and for improving the flow of population information and data in the region;

4. Requests ECA to take the necessary steps to mobilize the required resources to ensure the continued and uninterrupted implementation of the project and the overall population programme for Africa;

5. Expresses appreciation to (a) UNFPA for the assistance provided to the ECA to implement its population programmes, projects and activities, and (b) also the support granted by the Canadian International Development Research Centre, and (c) the Rockefeller Foundation to some of the subregional and sectoral participating centres of the regional network (POPIN-Africa).

4 (XII). THE ACCELERATION OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION PROCESS IN AFRICA AND STRENGTHENING OF MULPOCS

The Conference of Ministers,

Concerned with the slow process of economic integration at the subregional level as evidenced inter alia by the low level of the intra-subregional trade, the persistence of customs barriers between the member States, the non-existence of common external tariff and the absence of harmonized sectoral policies in the fields of agriculture, industry, transport, energy, trade and monetary affairs,

Recalling resolution 611 (XXII) of April 1987 on the acceleration of subregional economic integration in Africa and the new role of the MULPOCs in this process,

Recalling also resolution 702 (XXV) of April 1990 on transforming and strengthening the MULPOCs to enable them play an

effective role in providing technical assistance to the economic integration process in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the United Nations General Assembly's endorsement of the report of the Review Team that the structures, organization and operations of the MULPOCs be transformed and strengthened,

Conscious that UNDP's earlier financial assistance to the MULPOCs from 1977 to 1982 has made a significant impact on the economic integration process in Africa, further accelerated by the funding of multisectoral projects by UNDP during its Fourth Programming Cycle,

Noting also with satisfaction that the negotiation process to the establishment of the African Economic Community will be concluded soon by the signing of the Treaty establishing the latter,

1. Appeals to member States of subregional economic communities to take appropriate measures for the acceleration of the subregional integration process, notably by endowing the subregional economic communities with self-financing mechanisms for the funding of their operational activities, and by ensuring the participation of all socio-economic groups in the economic integration activities;

2. Further appeals to member States to adopt effective measures towards the setting up of mechanisms for economic integration in each subregion to be in charge of harmonizing the activities of all economic groupings;

3. Invites member States to apply Community decisions on joint policies in priority sectors and, in particular, those regarding tariff and non-tariff barriers elimination, the adoption of a common external tariff and monetary integration;

4. Requests UNDP to provide during its Fifth Programming Cycle sufficient resources to support the economic integration process in Africa, in particular to fund activities in priority areas which were not properly covered during the Fourth Programming Cycle, and to sustain the promotion of those activities which were launched during the latter Cycle;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary of ECA, in close collaboration with OAU and ADB , to redouble his effort to explore ways and means to provide all necessary technical assistance to the future African Economic Community, in particular, the drafting of its protocols and the implementation of the first work programme of the Community;

6. Invites the African Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to adopt concrete proposals aimed at accelerating the process of economic integration and developing the awareness of all strata of African society for the imperative of African economic and political integration;

7. Renews its appeal to the United Nations General Assembly for the funding of additional posts in the MULPOCs, both in professional and general service categories and the provision of additional financial resources;

8. Further renews its appeal to member States to continue their support to the MULPOCs through specific contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) and by facilitating the secondment of their civil servants to the MULPOCs on short-term assignment;

9. Endorses the new orientation of the work programme and priorities of the MULPOCs as proposed by their respective Intergovernmental Committees of Experts ;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to take appropriate measures in collaboration with member States for the operationalization of the subregional Development Information Systems, with priority being accorded to a reliable information system on the market for agricultural products, especially foodstuffs;

11. Further requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to:

(a) Establish the mandate and terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts for the effective implementation of the work charged to it under ECA resolution 702 (XVII);

(b) Draw up, in good time, MULPOCs programme of work for circulation to member States to allow to prepare, in reasonable time, for the secondment of National Civil Servants;

Gisenyi MULPOC

12. Requests the Gisenyi MULPOC and ECA to assist the Great-Lakes countries in implementing the provisions of the AAF-SAP;

13. Requests also the Gisenyi MULPOC in collaboration with the secretariat of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes to explore the possibility of organizing through funding from ECA's extrabudgetary resources as soon as possible an Expert Group meeting on road transport to consider inter alia the following topics: road service taxation and road maintenance within CEPGL; CEPGL integrated road network and CEPGL road map; global approach to the opening up of CEPGL area and formulation of a CEPGL transport master plan;

Tangiers MULPOC

14. Requests ECA to continue its assistance to the North African countries within the process of supporting the Arab-Maghreb Union (UMA) in its integration endeavours as well as to continue its assistance to the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) in North Africa;

15. Further requests ECA to establish within the Tangier MULPOC, adequate structures in order to enable the latter to provide support to the North African Transport Commission and to ensure proper follow-up to emigration issues;

16. Further requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to seek appropriate funds for providing the programme on the integration of women in development in North Africa with an established post;

Niamey MULPOC

17. Invites the member States of ECOWAS to consider seriously the establishment of a subsidy system for agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizers, pesticides, equipment and machinery, and to rationalize their distribution so as to accelerate the modernization of the agricultural sector and ensure the increase of its productivity;

18. Requests the Niamey MULPOC to look into the possibility of organizing with the assistance from ECA's extrabudgetary resources as soon as possible an Expert Group meeting to consider measures to be applied by the countries of the subregion in view of likely adverse effects of the European single market on their economies;

Yaounde MULPOC

19. Invites the member States of the subregion to:

(a) Continue to accord integrated rural development top priority;

(b) Co-ordinate their efforts with a view to establishing a subregional food security plan;

(c) To co-operate in the production of agricultural inputs;

(d) To promote trade in agricultural products, especially foodstuffs; and

(e) To collaborate towards the gradual adoption and implementation of a common agricultural policy;

20. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to provide the member States of the subregion with the necessary assistance in elaborating a subregional industrial development master plan and of a subregional industrialization programme;

21. Invites member States and concerned international organizations, including ECA and UNDP to provide support to UNTACDA II national co-ordinating committees, to ECCAS and UDEAC to enable them to elaborate a coherent subregional programme and to implement it;

Lusaka MULPOC

22. Calls upon States members of the subregion to designate focal point to facilitate data collection and for the preparation of country briefs;

23. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to:

(a) Continue to assist to the extent possible the Southern Africa Labour Commission (SALC) in the provision of secretariat services, implementation of SALC's expanded programme for 1991-1995, in the servicing of a study tour to West Africa of women from SALC countries and in serving as the ad interim secretariat of SALC;

(b) Bring the problem of unemployment in Southern Africa to the attention of the Ad Hoc Committee of the OAU Heads of State and Government charged with responsibility for monitoring events in the subregion;

(c) Assist member States in cooperation with OAU, ILO and UNESCO in the development and strengthening of human resources and social development including institutional development and human resources policy coordination.

5 (XII). THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE IN AFRICA (1991-2000)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 2 (IX) adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry held from 29 May to 1 June 1989, concerning the proclamation of the Second Industrial Development Decade in Africa (IDDA II) and the preparation of a programme for the Decade,

Recalling resolution AHG/Res. 180 (XXV) of July 1989, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and requesting the proclamation of a second IDDA and an African industrialization day,

Recalling also resolution GC.3/10 of 23 November 1989, adopted at the third session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) which also called for the proclamation by the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly of a second Industrial Development Decade in Africa,

Further recalling resolution 44/237 adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 1989 and proclaiming 1991-2000 as the period of the second Industrial Development Decade in Africa and 20 November as African Industrial Day,

Taking note of the progress report on the preparation of the programme for the Second United Nations Industrial Development Decade

which described progress made in national, subregional and regional preparations as well as in meeting the schedule adopted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and subsequently approved by the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly,

1. Mandates the Conference of African Ministers of Industry whose tenth meeting will take place in June 1991 in Dakar, Senegal to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth regular session, through the Economic and Social Council, the programme for IDDA II currently being finalized, together with the recommendations concerning practical modalities of its implementation and monitoring and including modalities for the mobilization of funds needed to finance the programme at the national, subregional, regional and international levels;

2. Appeals to African countries and to African intergovernmental organizations, particularly financial institutions, to take the necessary measures to ensure the successful implementation of the Programme for the Second IDDA and to give priority to the mobilization of their own financial resources for the implementation and monitoring of the IDDA II programme;

3. Also appeals to the international community, particularly bilateral and multilateral funding institutions to significantly increase their contributions to the industrial sector in African countries so as to ensure optimum implementation of the programe for IDDA II;

4. Recommends that the General Assembly of the United Nations should provide the Economic Commission for Africa with adequate resources to enable it to provide effective assistance to African countries and organizations in the implementation of the IDDA II programme;

5. Also recommends that the policy organs of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should significantly increase UNIDO's regular budget resources allocated for the implementation of the IDDA II programme;

6. Further appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to allocate, under its Africa regional programme for the Fifth Programming cycle (1992-1996) adequate resources for supporting activities of the IDDA II programme;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to undertake, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director-General of UNIDO, follow-up actions for promoting national, subregional and regional activities in support of the IDDA II programme and submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the next meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

6 (XII). SECOND UNITED NATIONS TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA (UNTACDA II)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.88/73, adopted at Kinshasa, Zaire, in March 1988, by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, in which the appropriate United Nations bodies were requested to take appropriate measures to proclaim a Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling also ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 639 (XXIII), ECOSOC resolution 1988/67 of 28 July 1988 and General Assembly resolution 43/179 of 20 December 1988 all proclaiming the period 1991-2000 as the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Referring to resolutions ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/75 and ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/82 of 12 November 1989 adopted at Tangiers, Morocco, by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, which endorsed the goals, global and sectoral objectives, strategies and guidelines for the preparation of the programme of the Second Transport and Communications Decade and the establishment of priorities of the programme,

Further referring to resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/84 of 8 February 1991 adopted at Abuja, Nigeria, by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, in relation to the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recognizing the fundamental role that road transport plays in regional integration within the objectives of the Second Decade programme and the urgent need for harmonized and coordinated development of the subsector through the proposed reactivation of the Trans-African Highway Bureau,

Bearing in mind ECA resolutions 604 (XXII) of April 1987, (Addis Ababa) and 639 (XXIII) of April 1988 of the ECA Conference of Ministers (Niamey, Niger) and ECA/UNTACDA/Res.89/79 of November 1989 (Tangiers, Morocco) which all requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to urgently reactivate the Trans-African Highway Bureau and to allocate adequate resources for its efficient functioning,

Having considered the report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 8 February 1991 and the report on the preparation of the programme of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Taking note of the adoption of the Second Decade programme and the decision on the reactivation of the Bureau made by the Conference

of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 8 May 1991,

Appreciating the work done by the National Coordinating Committees, the Resource Mobilization Committee, the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee, subsectoral and subregional working groups in preparing the strategy and programme of the Second Decade,

Noting with appreciation the contributions of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations specialized agencies to the preparation of the Second Decade programme,

Recognizing the important role incumbent on the National Co-ordinating Committees and the various African subregional and regional organizations during the implementation phase of the Second Decade programme,

1. Adopts the programme of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 19991-2000 (UNTACDA II);

2. Recommends the Decade programme to the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations General Assembly for approval;

3. Requests the United Nations Economic and Social Council to appeal to the General Assembly of the United Nations, to:

(a) Formally launch the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa which was declared in its resolution 43/179 of 1988; and

(b) Provide the Economic Commission for Africa with the necessary regular budget resources to enable it to effectively and efficiently carry out the responsibilities mandated to it as the lead agency of the Decade programme;

4. Appeals to all African Governments, as beneficiaries of the programme, to give every support for the achievement of the objectives of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade programme at national, subregional and regional levels by:

(a) Ensuring the establishment and proper functioning of National Coordinating Committees;

(b) Participating in financing and implementing the national projects that are included in the programme; and

(c) Contributing and cooperating effectively in the financing and implementation of subregional and regional Decade projects;

5. Requests ECA, as lead agency, to ensure that adequate manpower and financial resources, regular and extra-budgetary, are allocated for harmonizing, coordinating and monitoring the

organization and implementation of the Decade activities and other relevant projects which have been mandated to ECA as lead agency;

6. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to continue to support the implementation of the programme at national, subregional and regional levels and in particular the activities of the lead agency in monitoring, evaluating, managing and reporting on the implementation of the Decade programme;

7. Appeals to the United Nations agencies and other international organizations to provide all the necessary technical and other assistance to African Governments and work very closely with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee and African regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations in order to effectively implement the Second Decade programme and projects;

8. Appeals to individual international, African, regional and subregional financial institutions to ensure and facilitate the financing of national, subregional and regional Decade projects by giving adequate priority and special attention to the Second Decade programme and projects in their respective lending activities in Africa, and to commit themselves actively and collectively, to mobilize adequate resources for the effective implementation of projects of the UNTACDA II programme;

9. Appeals to States that are members and associate members of the trans-African highway authorities and coordinating committees to honour their financial obligations regarding the operation of the Bureau;

10. Further appeals to donors and, in particular to UNDP to assist in the financing of the extended programme of the single Bureau designed to assist member States in the implementation of the Second Transport and Communications Decade programme;

11. Requests the Resource Mobilization Committee of the Second Transport and Communications Decade to assist the Bureau in its efforts in the mobilization of resources for its operation;

12. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for the efforts it made to provide assistance in order to enable African countries to properly prepare the Second Decade programme;

13. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to provide the African countries with the technical assistance needed to coordinate the preparation and implementation of the programme at the national, subsectoral and subregional levels;

14. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to report to its next meeting on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

7 (XII). REVITALIZATION OF MINING INDUSTRIES IN AFRICA

The Conference of Ministers,

With reference to General Assembly resolution S-13/2, of 1 June 1986, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/8 and 1989/12, ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 602 (XXII) and the recommendations of previous regional conferences on mineral resources development in Africa,

After taking cognizance of the deliberations and recommendations of the fourth Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 18 to 27 March 1991,

Noting that the Ouagadougou Conference emphasized the need to:

(a) Improve mining development policies of member States in order to strengthen subregional and regional co-operation, and increase the flow of investments into the African mining industry;

(b) Establish special mechanisms for the financing of the mining sector so as to increase the share of African financial institutions in mining investments;

(c) Improve the performance of artisanal and small-scale mining of precious and semi-precious minerals in order to enable member States to derive the best advantage therefrom; and

(d) Create an atmosphere propitious to the development of this sector, among mining concerns, investors and governments;

1. Requests the secretariat of ECA to explore ways and means of financing, between now and the fifth Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa, planned for 1993, with the participation of ADB and the World Bank, and in collaboration with competent African inter-governmental agencies, a comparative study on mining development policies in Africa in order to recommend improvements in these policies at the national level and their co-ordination at the regional and subregional levels;

2. Invites the secretariat of ECA to negotiate with the African Development Bank, the possibilities and modalities of establishing, within it, a special mechanism for mineral resource exploitation projects;

3. Requests the secretariat of ECA to explore ways and means of financing a special study on present conditions (equipment, legislation, working conditions and environment) of artisanal and small-scale mining of precious and semi-precious minerals and to organize a seminar on such mining operations at which the results of the study will be considered;

4. Recommends that the secretariat of ECA should find ways and means of financing the updating of the study on the proposed

establishment of African associations of mining operators and related industries, by drawing on the experience of similar associations existing in other regions;

5. Invites member States to give every support to and participate fully in the implementation of recommendations of the Ouagadougou Conference;

6. Requests UNDP, to reconsider its position and to incorporate the mining sector into the priority sectors of the fourth and fifth cycles, to reconsider its position by placing it among the priorities of the fifth cycle;

7. Makes an urgent appeal to donors and the United Nations specialized agencies (World Bank, ILO, UNCTAD, DTCD, UNIDO, UNDP...) to support the secretariat of ECA in the execution of the tasks described above;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to present a report to the next Conference of Ministers on the implementation of this resolution.

8 (XII). AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the General Assembly resolution 44/228 on the decision for the United Nations to organize a Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil in June 1992 and which requests the regional Commissions to play a leading role in the preparatory process for the Conference,

Having reviewed the report on the preparations of ECA member States for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in June 1992,

Considering the importance for and relevance of that Conference to be held at the level of Heads of State and Government, being the first Earth Summit for world development in general and the development of the African region in particular,

Aware that UNCED-1992 is part of a negotiating process for building global international co-operation through a global commitment to environmental management for sustainable social and economic development,

Convinced that these quests for sustainable development cannot be achieved without the necessary political commitment,

Determined to make the African preparatory process to UNCED-1992 a mobilization of the necessary national political, institutional and administrative mechanisms to secure full participation of all groups,

both within and outside governments for a concerted action to ensure the integration of environment in economic development,

1. Endorses the content of the report on the preparatory UNCED activities;

2. Urges member States to actively participate in the negotiating process leading to UNCED-1992, particularly in the six UNCED action areas;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to continue, jointly with the Secretary-General of OAU, the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

4. Urges the agencies of the United Nations system to support the ECA in its effort in preparing the region for UNCED-1992;

5. Calls on the Preparatory Conference in Cairo to explore all ways and means of ensuring full African participation in UNCED in Brazil;

6. Invites the member States present at the Preparatory Conference in Cairo to ensure that Africa's interests are fully taken into account in the final decisions that will be adopted in Brazil in 1992;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to report to the next session of the Conference of Ministers on the implementation of this resolution.

9 (XII). THE AFRICAN SOCIAL SITUATION

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 602 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 on the African social situation, which inter alia calls upon member States to give high priority in their national development plans, to social development policies and programmes,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/46 of 24 May 1989, in which the United Nations Secretary-General was requested, in consultation with relevant organizations based in Africa, to prepare a report on the critical social situation in Africa, paying particular attention to the obstacles to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, on 27 and 28 October 1989,

Taking note of the African Charter for Social Action adopted by the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Social

Affairs and endorsed by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 691 (XXV) of April 1990 adopting the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation as an important instrument for the realization of the social objectives of equity, participation and social justice for all population groups, namely youth, women, the disabled, the elderly, the family, and refugees and displaced persons,

Taking into account its resolution 642 (XXXIII) of 15 April 1988 establishing the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to assist member States in the development and implementation of social policies and programmes aimed at addressing the issues of crime prevention and criminal justice and illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse,

Noting with grave concern that one of the pressing social issues currently facing the continent is the increasing rates of criminality and juvenile delinquency, including new forms, such as illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse, once non-existent in the region, exerting high social and economic costs on governments and the population in general,

Concerned that orthodox structural adjustment programmes requiring measures such as drastic cuts in public expenditures, massive and persistent devaluations have had adverse effects on critical social sectors including health, education, employment, household income, and levels of nutrition,

Convinced that Africa's sustained development and transformation requires an integrated approach and an effective interplay between economic considerations and social dimensions as articulated in AAF-SAP, UN-PAAERD, and Khartoum Declaration,

1. Calls upon African Governments, the Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations agencies, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the region, to give priority to and intensify their efforts in the development and implementation of effective policies and measures in social development, including analyses of the impact of structural adjustment measures, as an integral part of their overall development efforts and programmes, with special attention to the following issues:

(a) Education and training, health, employment, nutrition, housing, water and sanitation;

(b) The vulnerable population groups namely youth, women, disabled persons, the elderly, the family and refugees and displaced persons;

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice and the control of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to continue to monitor and review the social situation in the region, including the impact of structural adjustment policies, in co-operation with relevant institutions/organizations in the region, and to report to the Conference on a yearly basis;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to develop appropriate strategies to revitalize the social development programme of the ECA secretariat so that it could be more responsive to the needs of member States and thus be able to provide them with the necessary support in the formulation and implementation of policies and measures in social development in the above-mentioned fields;

4. Invites all African Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, to make all efforts in preparation and observance of the International Year of the Family, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, in resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, at the grassroots, national and regional levels, with a view to creating greater awareness of the African family as the pillar and fundamental unit of society;

5. Stresses the importance of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in assisting member States in the formulation of relevant policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and in the control of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse, including the promotion of regional and international cooperation;

6. Calls upon African Governments which have not done so to sign the Statute of the Institute and appeals once again to member States of the Institute to honour their financial obligations to enable the Institute to fulfil the objectives for which it was established;

7. Acknowledges with appreciation the financial assistance provided in the field of social development, by funding agencies, particularly UNDP, which has provided funds to the Institute and appeals to UNDP, other bilateral and multilateral institutions and donors, to increase their technical and financial support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandates.

10 (XII). WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 684 (XXV) adopted in Tripoli in 1990 which urged member States to fully implement the recommendations of the Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development: the Role of Women in Africa in 1990s,

Considering that elections at subregional level, for membership of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of

Women in Development (ARCC), have not taken place in the last two years,

Having considered the document on the situation of African women in the agricultural and industrial sectors and the changes that must take place within the context of AAF-SAP,

1. Appeals to member States to establish national machineries for women, where they do not exist, to promote the advancement of women;

2. Urges member States to intensify their efforts to implement the recommendations of the Abuja Declaration by channelling human and financial resources to national machineries responsible for women's concerns and monitor the attainments of targets of the Declaration;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to hold subregional Committee meetings at MULPOC level for officials responsible for women's concerns before 31 December 1991 to (a) consider progress made in the implementation of the Abuja Declaration; (b) hold election for membership of ARCC; and (c) hold briefings on women's situation in the context of AAF-SAP.

4. Requests member States, in line with ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 684 (XXV), to facilitate the participation of their countries in the above mentioned subregional committee meetings at MULPOC level.

11 (XII). IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE ECA SECRETARIAT

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/75 of 8 December 1989 and 44/185 of 19 December 1989 on improving the status of women in the secretariat,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 40/105 of December 1985 calling on regional commissions to incorporate women's concerns in their overall programmes,

Concerned that inadequate staff are allocated to the regional and subregional offices of ECA responsible for women's programmes,

1. Commends the ECA Executive Secretary for having taken steps to increase the representation of women professionals in the ECA and urges him to redouble his efforts to attain and possibly exceed the 35 per cent target requested by the General Assembly by 1995;

2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to ensure that appropriate and adequate representation of women is obtained as well as the incorporation of the women's concerns in all programmes of the Commission;

3. Urges the Executive Secretary to explore possibility of: (a) increasing the number of women at decision-making levels, and (b) allocating additional staff to the African Training and Research Centre for Women of ECA and at MULPOC level to strengthen the programmes for women.

12 (XII) IMPLEMENTING AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 498 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) in Africa,

Recalling also its resolution 600 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 on information systems development in Africa,

Recalling further its resolution 658 (XXIV) of 7 April 1989 on strengthening information systems in Africa,

Bearing in mind its resolution 679 (XXV) of 23 May 1990 on improving information flows in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction PADIS' direction for 1992-1997 for an integrated approach to development information as spelled out in document ECA/PADIS/RTC/7 "Adaptation of PADIS to changing needs",

Expressing appreciation for ECA's continued efforts to further strengthen and consolidate PADIS,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by UNDP and ECA to ensure adequate funding for PADIS during the year 1991,

Noting with satisfaction the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Report of the UNDP In-depth Evaluation of PADIS (1990),

Further noting with satisfaction the preparedness of UNDP to consider financing PADIS through its Fifth Regional Programming Cycle for the African Region (1992-1997),

Cognizant of the need for enhancing collaboration between ECA, OAU and UNESCO in the elaboration of communications programmes,

1. Calls upon ECA member States to actively support and sustain PADIS' leadership role in the region in the coordination of development information, the promotion of national, subregional and regional information linkages, the promotion of information networking and the facilitation of the exchange of development information, within the context of African economic integration and an African Economic Community;

2. Urges member States, the funding agencies of the United Nations system and other donor agencies to strengthen their financial

support of PADIS, with particular attention to its subregional centres;

3. Requests UNDP to continue the funding of PADIS' activities under the Fifth Regional Programming Cycle for Africa commensurate with its expansion of operational activities;

4. Strongly urges member States to consider the inclusion of projects on the development of information needs for funding from UNDP under the Fifth Regional Programming Cycle with a view to establishing the desirable linkages between national, subregional and regional activities and thereby strengthen the overall impact of PADIS;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to intensify his efforts to fund core posts for PADIS from the regular budget;

6. Calls for the rapid convening of a meeting between ECA/PADIS and UNESCO, within the framework and programme of work for 1991 of the UNESCO/ECA Joint Concertation Meeting (JCM) and with the participation of the OAU to develop collaboration in the area of communications.

13 (XII). PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA FOR 1992-1993

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined Africa's past and present socio-economic development problems and the challenges facing Africa in the 1990's and beyond,

Bearing in mind that Africa accounts for a great number of the least developed countries of the world and that the present economic and social crisis had further weakened the region's capacity to cope with its own economic growth and development,

Realizing that there is need for strengthening regional and subregional cooperation through joint and co-ordinated efforts to solving the grave economic situation facing Africa,

Having examined the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1992-1993,2/

Bearing in mind that this is the first programme of work based on the 1992-1997 Medium-term Plan,3/

Taking note of the fact that in his submission of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General of the United Nations would

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2/ E/ECA/CM.17/25.Rev.1

3/ A/45/6/Rev.1

include proposals for a programme on Africa's Critical Economic Situation, Recovery and Development as contained in the Medium-Term Plan, 1992-1997,

Convinced that the proposed programme of work can make significant contribution to Africa's development effort,

Noting with satisfaction the positive response of the United Nations General Assembly to the recommendations of the Review Team on the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs, which concluded inter-alia; that the structures, organization and operation of each MULPOC should be transformed and strengthened to make it more operational and effective in providing relevant services to member States of its subregion,

1. Endorses the work programme and priorities of the Commission for the biennium 1992-1993 as contained in document E/ECA/CM.17/25.Rev.1;

2. Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his submission to the Committee for Programming and Co-ordination to give special consideration to the Economic Commission for Africa in providing it with adequate resources to enable it to implement fully its work programme particularly by making available more regular budget posts, increased allocation for travel and consultancy services for the Commission's five subregional centres - the MULPOCs, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS);

3. Urges also the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his submission to the General Assembly to stress the need to make available adequate posts and financial resources at the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it undertake those responsibilities assigned to it under the programme on Africa's Critical Situation, Recovery and Development;

4. Calls upon the Committee for Programming and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to support and consider favourably these proposals for making available adequate resources to the Economic Commission for Africa under programmes 30 and 45 at its forthcoming session.

14 (XXI). REVITALIZATION OF THE MANDATE AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 adopted in 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations System and in particular section IV of the same resolution on structures for regional and interregional cooperation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 33/202 adopted in the year 1979 legislating inter alia that the regional commissions should have the status of executing agencies in their own right, for regional, subregional and interregional projects that were of an intersectoral character or were in areas that did not fall within the purview of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 44/211 adopted in 1989 on operational activities for development,

Recognizing that the afore-mentioned resolutions and related instruments have paved the way for and continue to sustain the process of decentralization of the United Nations system with a view to rendering its activities more relevant to the particular requirements of the developing countries as well as more efficient and cost-effective,

Conscious of the high responsibilities carried out in this context by the regional commissions, who are called upon to catalyse, coordinate and develop policies and operational frameworks aimed at meeting the specific developmental requirements of their regions,

Acknowledging the indisputable central role played by the regional commission for Africa since its establishment in 1958 in furthering individual and collective policy objectives and translating them into integrated self-reliant strategies, such as the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) and Final Act of Lagos (FAL), Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER), African Alternative Framework for Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAP) and the Khartoum and Abuja Declarations, which have contributed to Africa's development goals of the 1980s and furthered concepts of co-operation among the African countries themselves, the African countries and the international community at large and the United Nations system in particular,

Convinced that Africa's future development lies in the arduous pursuit of regional and subregional socio-economic integration and ultimate establishment of the African Economic Community, and as a consequence, enhanced integrated multidisciplinary approaches to development aimed at long-term structural transformation of its economies,

Concerned that the original mandate of the Regional Commissions has been placed in question and that the decentralization process launched in the 1970s and that the inherent focus on the regional dimensions of development has been greatly reversed,

Concerned in particular at the far-reaching consequences emerging from discussions on resolution 44/211, which though it has stressed the need for multidisciplinary integrated approaches to development, has left open the contributions and great potential of the regional commissions in this area,

Noting with appreciation the joint position taken by the regional commissions on the follow-up of resolution 44/211

essentially aimed at restoring the regional dimensions within the United Nations System coordinating bodies such as the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) CCSQ (OPS) and the Advisory Committee on Coordination (ACC), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly,

Looking forward with interest to the study on the regional dimensions to be carried out under the aegis of the Director General for Development and International Co-operation in consultation with the regional commissions and the United Nations agencies, for inclusion in his 1991 annual report to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly on the follow-up of implementation of resolution 44/211,

1. Commends the Executive Secretary for the initiatives he has taken to establish within existing resources a multidisciplinary Advisory Group (MRAG) to:

(a) Assist African countries to translate regionally - agreed policies into practical strategies and programmes;

(b) Provide multisectoral analyses of African needs in the priority areas, and time-bound strategies for achieving the objectives contained in those priorities;

(c) Developing in the member States and subregional economic communities arnual programmes of multidisciplinary technical assistance; and

(d) Providing multidisciplinary technical assistance teams to African countries based on those programmes;

2. Calls upon the Secretary General of the United Nations to launch a comprehensive process of reviewing and up-dating of the legislative framework of the regional commissions with a view to:

(a) defining unambiguously and explicitly their present role and functions, and enforcing their original mandates in such a way as to correspond to regional development objectives and requirements;

(b) providing them with a new legislative framework which complements United Nations General Assembly resolutions on operational activities for development, and defines their operational and organizational objectives and requirements at the regional levels; and

(c) reviewing in relation to (a) and (b) above the funding mechanisms of the regional commissions and exploring ways and means to improve existing institutioned arrangements, including the establishment of a separate global pledging arrangement for funding of regional co-operation activities;

3. Invites the Director General for Development and International Cooperation to consider the convening of an ad hoc group meeting of high-level experts drawn from the respective regions

during the second half of 1991 to discuss the revision of the mandate of the regional commissions and thus provide an intellectual input into the current process of restructuring and decentralizing United Nations assistance to the countries of the region;

4. Urges the agencies of the United Nations system and of the United Nations secretariat involved in technical assistance to decentralize staff and establish joint units, sections and divisions with the secretariats of the regional commissions;

5. Appeals to member States to give due consideration to the regional dimension in their national development plans and ensure that its multidisciplinary implications be comprehensively addressed in those country programming exercises to be funded from national indicative planning figures (IPF).

15 (XII). CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (UNTFAD)

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the reports on pledges and actual disbursements made by member countries and the progress achieved in project implementation and spending of UNTFAD funds,

Conscious of the socio-economic and financial difficulties facing most African countries,

Recalling ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 615 (XXII) inviting African member States and financial institutions which had not yet pledged contributions to UNTFAD to do so and those which had pledged contributions to pay them in as soon as possible,

Aware of the fact that the resources pledged to UNTFAD can contribute to solving the critical economic and social problems that African countries are experiencing,

1. Invites African member States and the international community to contribute more generously to UNTFAD;

2. Urges those countries and institutions which have yet to pay in their arrears of contributions to do so as soon as possible;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to spare no effort in securing further contributions to UNTFAD.

16 (XII). THE UNDP FIFTH INTER-COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the Orientation Paper for the UNDP Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa (1992-1996),

Noting with satisfaction that the Orientation Paper reflects Africa's socio-economic priorities as spelt out in the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos, Africa's Priority programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes and the Charter for Popular Participation,

Noting with concern the increasing deterioration of African economies and the declining pattern of financial flows to Africa in recent years,

1. Endorses the Orientation Paper for the UNDP Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa (1992-1996) and at the same time expresses concern in the reduction of resources to Africa;

2. Agrees to convene an extraordinary meeting of ECA Ministers of Economic Planning and Development in December 1991 to consider the Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa;

3. Urges the UNDP Governing Council to consider increasing the resources for ECA in the Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa at least to the level of that in the Fourth Inter-country Programme;

4. Call upon the Administrator of UNDP to mobilize additional resources other than those of UNDP itself, which would supplement the Fifth Inter-country Programme for Africa;

5. Requests the continuation, strengthening and consolidation of the coordination between the UNDP's Regional Bureaux for Africa (RBA) and UNDP's Regional Bureau for the Arab States and European programmes (RBAES) for the maximum benefit of the people of Africa.

17 (XII). IFAD'S SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolutions CM/RES 1060 (XLIV) and CM/RES 1119 (XLVI) adopted respectively at the forty-fourth and forty-sixth sessions of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on IFAD's Special Programme for sub-Saharan African countries affected by drought and desertification (SPA),

Bearing in mind the United Nations General Assembly resolution S-13/2 and particularly the stipulation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 in which the African countries and the International Community committed themselves, inter alia, to giving priority attention and increasing resources to the rehabilitation and development of food and agriculture in Africa,

Further recalling the mandate given to the President of IFAD by the Governing Council at its thirteenth session held in January 1990 to consult donors on the mobilization of additional resources for

IFAD's Special Programme for sub-Saharan African countries affected by drought and desertification (SPA) to continue in a second phase,

Bearing in mind also resolution 45/207 on Food and Agricultural Problems where the General Assembly, inter alia, "invites donors to endorse the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development resolution 60/XIII about the possibility of additional voluntary contributions to the special resources for sub-Saharan Africa for a further three years, starting in January 1991, without prejudicing deliberations on the mobilization of core funding for the International Fund for Agricultural Development Resources",

Noting with satisfaction the excellent and growing cooperation between ECA and IFAD, and the positive contribution made by IFAD to the economic recovery programmes of its member developing countries and its increased assistance to the African region in line with the stipulation of the UN-PAAERD and particularly through its Special Programme for sub-Saharan African countries affected by drought and desertification,

Concerned by the continued deterioration in the socio-economic conditions in Africa,

1. Stresses the importance of the link between the social and economic development in Africa and the national management of the environment;

2. Commends IFAD's interventions under the Special Programme (SPA) which have been focusing on improving food security through environmental conservation and the rehabilitation of existing productive capacity and ensuring the sustainability of benefits in the post-project period;

3. Emphasizes the urgent need for a continuous, predictable and uninterrupted flow of resources to Africa for recovery and development, particularly for agriculture, and to meet the urgent need of combating drought and for economic reforms, and the need for continuous and enhanced cooperation between ECA and IFAD in the interest of African economic recovery and development with transformation,

4. Expresses its appreciation to those donor countries which have already made firm pledges or have indicated their intent to make contributions to the Second Phase of IFAD's Special Programme for sub-Saharan African countries affected by drought and Desertification (SPA), covering the period 1991-1993,

5. Appeals to the International Donor Community to make all efforts to augment the resources of the second Phase of the SPA in order to achieve the target of 300 million US dollars needed over a period of three years beginning in 1991.

18 (XII). VOTE OF APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO PROFESSOR ADEBAYO ADEDEJI, UNITED NATIONS UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting with deep regret the decision of Professor Adebayo Adedeji to resign his appointment as United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA),

Conscious of the exemplary leadership demonstrated by him for over 16 years at the helm of affairs of ECA, having given a unique sense of direction to the Commission and succeeded in projecting Africa's own perceptions of its problems and needs to the world community through his outstanding capacity for lucidity and courage in actions and deeds,

Recognizing that he imparted to the work of the Commission an intellectual orientation of the highest level, enabling him to initiate coherent policies and strategies, thus giving ECA enhanced credibility, leading not only to unreserved support from its members States but also to the respect of the entire United Nations family,

Cognizant of his numerous contributions to the cause of African development during his tenure as Executive Secretary of ECA, including, inter alia (a) the elaboration of major development strategies and programmes such as the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA), Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER), Africa's Submission to the General Assembly on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa and the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAP); (b) the promotion of regional and subregional cooperation and integration of African countries by spearheading the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); (c) the launching of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) and the United Nations Transport and Communications Decades in Africa (UNTACDA I and II); (d) the establishment of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions active in the fields of science, technology and economic and social development; (e) the decentralization of ECA's activities to the five subregions through its Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs); the strengthening of the Commission's operational capacity through cooperation with the United Nations partners; (f) and the promotion of women in development through the establishment of the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW),

Recognizing his commitment and devotion of Professor Adedeji to Africa's major ideals and his tireless championing and defence of the continent's cause in the world,

1. Expresses to him its highest appreciation for his foresight and dynamic leadership during his tenure as Executive Secretary of ECA;

2. Expresses further to him its gratitude for his decisive role in the elaboration of what became Africa's own collective perceptions and strategies for socio-economic development; and for laying the foundation for regional and subregional cooperation through the instruments which he helped to develop and the institutions and organizations he established;

3. Wholeheartedly wishes him an even more productive and rewarding future, certain that he will continue to be at the forefront of the battle for African development and progress;

4. Mandates the Chairman of the ECA Conference of Ministers to transmit this Vote of Appreciation and Thanks to H.E. the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

39 (XII). VOTE OF THANKS TO MR. MBATKAM TCHOUTA-MOUSSA, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECA

The Conference of Ministers,

Having taken note of the decision of the Government of Cameroon recalling him to his country to assume new and high responsibilities,

Aware of his invaluable contribution to the Commission for 14 years, first as Director of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division and then as Deputy Executive Secretary,

Aware also of the important role he played in the work of the Commission, particularly in his capacity as Chief of the Transport, Communications, and Tourism Division during which he made important contributions to ECA's activities under the first United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, and as co-ordinator of the Pan-African Development Information System, the African Training and Research Centre for Women, multisectoral programme activities, ECA's Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters (ACABM) as well as the Information and Security Services,

1. Expresses its profound gratitude for his invaluable contribution to the work of the Commission during his many years of service;

2. Wishes him every success in the discharge of his new and high responsibilities;

3. Requests the Chairman of the ECA Conference of Ministers to transmit this Vote of Thanks to the Government of the Republic of Cameroon and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ANNEX II

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

BY

THE ECA CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE FINAL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN-PAAERD, 1986-1990

I. INTRODUCTION

1. With the coming to an end of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD), we, the African Ministers Responsible for Economic Development and Planning wish, as decided in ECA's Conference of Ministers resolution 698(XXV), to present herewith to the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole of the United Nations General Assembly on the final review of UN-PAAERD our collective assessment of the implementation of the programme and the measures that are needed to achieve sustained and sustainable growth and development in Africa in the years to come.

2. When our Heads of State and Government called, at their 21st Session held in July 1985, for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to deal with the critical economic situation in Africa, it was because of the extreme gravity of the socio-economic situation in our continent and the conviction that the causes for this crisis transcended the boundaries of our continent. Hence, the need for a partnership between Africa and the international community to undertake mutually reinforcing actions to overcome the crisis and set the continent on the road to recovery and development.

3. Africa's Submission to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis, which the OAU and ECA jointly prepared and submitted to the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole and the General Assembly, delineated the actions that needed to be taken by both Africa and the international community to turn a continent beleaguered by socio-economic crisis into a viable socio-economic entity. In that context, the submission reaffirmed our total commitment and primary responsibility for the development of our continent; the determination to implement Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 (APPER); and reiterated our continued full commitment to the basic principles and long-term objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

4. We saw the first special session ever to be devoted to the problems of a single region as a truly unique opportunity to focus the attention of the world on the plight of Africa and to establish the political foundation and consensus for concerted global action in support of our continent.

5. All concerned came to recognize the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) as a novel compact between Africa and the international community, embodying mutually reinforcing commitments. We Africans committed ourselves to providing the necessary framework for launching long-term programmes for self-sustaining socio-economic growth and development and the international community, on its part, committed itself to assisting Africa to achieve this objective.

6. We recall the results of the Mid-term review of UN-PAAERD by the UN General Assembly, in particular the following conclusions:

> "The reform and restructuring that are being undertaken by African countries and the ongoing initiatives taken by the international community thus constitute an important beginning. However, the overall performance of the African economies remains unsatisfactory. Despite earnest efforts to carry out adjustments in their national economic policies, most African countries have found little reprieve from the harsh impact of climatic conditions and an unfavourable external economic environment. Internal constraints, and the adverse impact of exogenous factors to which African economies are highly susceptible, are impeding the reform process and are severely hampering African development. Dealing with the African crisis is a priority concern for the international community and the United Nations. It is therefore a matter of urgency that the promising actions that have been taken by all parties concerned to implement the Programme of Action should be strengthened and accelerated. Sustained and unfaltering efforts made by African countries must be matched by substantial and urgent efforts by the international community to provide support to them at the required levels and to create an international environment favourable to the process of reform and restructuring".

7. We have also taken note of the decennial review and appraisal of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos as contained in document E/ECA/CM.17/14.

8. The forthcoming final review and appraisal of the implementation of UN-PAAERD by the General Assembly of the United Nations and its Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, does provide a unique opportunity for a frank, sober and objective assessment of the achievements of the Programme and the implications of those results for future action in support of Africa.

9. With the unanimous adoption of UN-PAAERD, we certainly held the hope that this compact would usher in a new era of international co-operation in which both Africa and the international community would work together to fulfill their respective commitment as embodied in the Programme.

10. Unfortunately, we cannot but conclude that at the end of this five-year period, Africa's socio-economic condition remains precarious and that the results of the Programme of Action fell far below expectations. The socio-economic conditions as well as the purchasing power of the African people have continued to

worsen and the Programme of Action has not contributed sufficiently in redressing this situation.

11. It is because of this concern that we decided, at our 16th meeting held in Tripoli in May 1990, to submit a Special Memorandum to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the final review and appraisal of UN-PAAERD. The following pages of our Special Memorandum contain our candid assessment of UN-PAAERD and the tasks that need to be tackled in the 1990s. The economic situation that Africa finds itself in today is not much different from that of 1986, and the social and human conditions have actually worsened. It is this sober recognition which guided us in formulating this Special Memorandum.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF UN-PAAERD

1. African Efforts

12. We committed ourselves in UN-PAAERD to providing the necessary framework for launching long-term sustainable socio-economic development and growth by implementing the policies and priorities of APPER. These include: agricultural development; the rehabilitation and development of sectors in support of agriculture; measures to combat drought and desertification; the development of human resources; and policy reforms. These policy reforms included: improving the management of the economy; implementing other policy measures through which "short-term adjustment measures should give way to the medium-term and long-term structural transformation"; adoption of appropriate national population policies; and encouraging the participation of people, especially women, in development.

13. For a realistic assessment of UN-PAAERD, it is important to state at the outset that the implementation of UN-PAAERD priorities overlapped with the implementation of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs)by over two thirds of our countries. In this regard we wish to reiterate the conclusions of the General Assembly of the United Nations at the mid-term review of UN-PAAERD: "Structural adjustment programmes should be designed in such a way as to mitigate their adverse socio-economic effects, ensure that the human dimension is integrated in them, further improve the well-being of the poor and disadvantaged in African societies, notably through redirecting social and developmental expenditures, and make short-term stabilization and adjustment measures compatible with and built into long-term structural transformation".

14. Bearing that fact in mind, we are convinced that on the whole we undertook commendable efforts to implement policy reforms and structural

adjustment programmes and also to respond positively to some of the priority sectors of UN-PAAERD. Returns from the survey which ECA administered in our countries, and assessment by other sources do clearly demonstrate a clear commitment and a greater effort on our part to implement economic reforms and adjustment programmes.

15. We accorded high importance to UN-PAAERD's four sectoral priorities. Special emphasis was given to the food and agriculture sector. Greater resources were channelled to the agricultural sector to the extent that the target of allocating 20 to 25 per cent of public investment was achieved in many countries. Efforts to expand agricultural production have also been made through measures such as encouraging investment in agriculture by both the public and private sectors, increasing incentives to farmers, including remunerative producer prices and measures to restore, protect and develop arable land etc. We also took immediate measures to combat food emergencies.

16. Regrettably, this commitment on our part to emphasize the food and agricultural sector has, for a variety of reasons, not translated into a significant degree of food security, and the rise in agricultural production certainly fell short of our expectations and was not sufficient to stop the decline of per capita agricultural production.

17. Emphasis has also been placed on the development and rehabilitation of agro-related industries and production of factor inputs, taking into account the UN Industrial Development Decade for Africa; the rehabilitation and development of transport and communication infrastructure, taking also into account the UN Transport and Communications Decade for Africa; combating drought and desertification; improving educational and training facilities; increasing employment opportunities for women and rural youth; and encouraging popular participation in development in general.

18. The overwhelming majority of our countries implemented policy reforms along UN-PAAERD lines as well as Structural Adjustment Programmes, the latter often at great economic and social cost as well as political risks.

19. Within the framework of the improvement of the management of the economy, the majority of our countries pursued policies aimed at improving public management systems institutions and practices; improving the performance of public enterprises; reforming the public services to make them more development oriented; and improving financial management, fiscal administration and control of public expenditure.

20. Explicit or implicit national population policies were adopted by over three quarters of African countries. Efforts have been made to enhance the participation of the people in development, develop indigenous entrepreneurial capabilities,

support grass-roots development initiatives and involve women more actively in development.

21. Indeed, significant change towards the democratization of political and economic life and consolidation of the democratic process, affecting no less than 30 of our countries, was underway towards the latter part of UN-PAAERD period. The Arusha International Conference on Popular Participation in Development, the Charter of which was subsequently adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers and the OAU Summit of Heads of State and Government and endorsed by the UN General Assembly, represents an important watershed in the emerging consensus emanating from within our continent on the need for a more effective process of popular participation in development and the democratization of economic and political life.

22. UN-PAAERD's policy reform measures demanding that "in the coming years short-term adjustment measures should give way to the medium-term and long-term structural transformation" were not always implemented as envisaged. Structural Adjustment Programmes were dominant throughout UN-PAAERD period and hardly any restructuring of the economy took place during that period.

23. We are convinced that these programmes (SAPs) were not sufficient for the attainment of the objectives of structural transformation and long-term development. Moreover, their human and social costs have been unpermissible and their presumed benefits have become more and more elusive. Indeed, some of SAPs instruments - such as repeated devaluation, across-the-board liberalization of the economy and high nominal interest rates - have actually undermined long-term growth prospects by fueling inflation, discouraging domestic production and diverting savings to speculative activities. These conclusions have furthermore been testified to by the conclusions of many independent studies and the findings of major international conferences such as the Abuja International Conference on the Challenge of Economic Recovery and Accelerated Development and the Khartoum International Conference on the Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development.

24. We also took actions to implement UN-PAAERD's priorities at the sub-regional and regional levels within the framework of our intergovernmental sub-regional and regional organizations and institutions. We wish to cite here, only by way of example, the collective actions we have taken towards the establishment of regional networks for crop protection and mechanisms for co-operation among national early warning systems, as well as towards the reduction of dependence on non-African experts. The Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), in which over 30 countries participate and the establishment of the African Centre for Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) are two examples, during UN-PAAERD period, of sub-regional co-operation.

25. We also made efforts to harmonize and rationalize the functioning of our sub-regional organizations with a view to avoiding unnecessary duplication, cutting on wastage and revitalizing them to act as effective vehicles for development and transformation.

26. Our efforts in establishing the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA) as well as the African Economic Community, the treaty of which will be tabled for signature at the Summit of our Heads of State and Government in June of this year, are a measure of our resolve to push ahead with the overriding objective of economic cooperation and integration, without which the future of our continent will be compromised.

2. Response of the International Community

27. Our commitment to "provide the necessary framework to launch long-term programmes for self-sustaining socio-economic and growth" is matched, in UN-PAAERD by the commitment of the international community "to assist Africa to achieve this objective". This commitment was spelt out in UN-PAAERD as follows: "The international community recognizes that the African countries need additional external resources. In this context, it commits itself to making every effort to provide sufficient resources to support and supplement the African development effort". It also agreed "on the importance of increasing official development assistance to Africa, its improved quality and effectiveness". "The international community also recognizes the magnitude of Africa's debt and the severe and restrictive burden which this has placed on many African countries. It realizes that measures have to be taken to alleviate this burden and to enable those countries to concentrate on the full implementation of the priorities". The international community "also realized that lasting solutions to the serious exogenous constraints, over which Africa has no control, will have to be found since their persistence will impede the efforts of African countries", and that "the quality and modality of external assistance and co-operation will need to be improved".

28. A careful and reasoned evaluation of the response of the international community to UN-PAAERD can, regrettably, only lead us to conclude that the international community has not fully carried out its part of the compact.

29. Additional resource requirements, over and above net resource flow levels in 1986, for the implementation of the UN-PAAERD were estimated in the Programme at $9.1 billion a year over UN-PAAERD period. Not only were these additional resource flows as expected in UN-PAAERD not forthcoming, but total net resource flows to Africa actually declined sharply in real terms during the Programme period from a level of $25.9 billion in 1986 to $22.6 billion in 1989. The year-to-year figures of total net resource flows were: 1985, $27.3 billion; 1986, $25.9 billion;

1987, $22.7 billion; 1988, $22.4 billion; 1989, $22.6 billion. Official Development assistance stagnated in real terms at around $16 billion during the same period, while private flows declined sharply. When account is taken of interest and dividend payments by Africa, net financial transfers to Africa in real terms drop sharply from $13.0 billion in 1986 to $8.7 billion in 1989.

30. We recognize that the multilateral institutions increased their support to Africa during UN-PAAERD through such programmes as the World Bank's Special Program of Assistance (SPA) and the IMF's Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF) and Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF). The World Bank's net flows to Africa amounted to $1.66 billion, over the UN-PAAERD, while the IMF's total direct financial commitment to Africa increased from SDR 1.5 billion in 1986 to SDR 2.8 billion in 1990.

31. This support had, however, serious limitations. Access to these resources is conditional upon the implementation of SAPs, a fact which leaves little choice for African countries but to accede to such conditionality. Secondly, conditionality requirements have also limited access to the funds. For example, only about a third of total resources available under SAF and ESAF had been disbursed by the IMF to-date.

32. In spite of the growing seriousness of Africa's external debt, efforts by the international community to deal with the problem have not been adequate. Africa's debt has virtually become unmanageable. The continent's total external debt stock rose from $204 billion in 1986 to $272 billion in 1990. The ratio of Africa's debt to GDP increased from 54 per cent in 1986 to 109 per cent in 1990, while the ratio of debt to export earnings increased from 239 per cent in 1986 to 338 per cent in 1990. The ratio of actual debt service payments to exports was in excess of 30 per cent in 1990, while the ratio of scheduled debt service to GDP was in the same year, about 46 per cent.

33. Some initiatives have been taken by the international community to ease Africa's debt burden such as Toronto Summit and the welcome move by a number of OECD countries to forgive African debt. Appreciative as these initiatives are, they have been inadequate as they have failed to reduce the stock of debt in any meaningful manner. About $1.6 billion was forgiven during 1987-1989 by nine member states of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development. The impact of the debt forgiven on debt service has been very limited. Debt service payments were lowered by only $100 million.

34. The fact that these debt initiatives have been implemented within the framework of Paris Club has also had serious defects: The scale of relief is extremely limited; countries have had to repeatedly reschedule debt; repeated reschedulings have become time consuming and sapping to the energy and limited human resources of our countries; rescheduling terms have not been

adapted to the debtor's capacity to pay and the excessive duration of the rescheduling process. Furthermore, Paris Club practices pose two serious problems: First, these practices do actually contribute to exacerbating Africa's long-term debt problem by increasing the stock of nonconcessional debt. Secondly, the conditionality of linking eligibility of debt relief to the adherence to IMF/World Bank Structural Adjustment Programmes pressurizes countries to accept SAPs on the one hand and also excludes those countries which are not implementing SAPs from obtaining debt relief on the other hand.

35. Africa's debt problem has been further complicated by the growing seriousness of multilateral debt. The service on multilateral debt represents almost a quarter of Africa's total debt and has been so large as to substantially express net financial transfers from multilateral institutions in the case of the World Bank, (where annual net transfers after debt service, amounted to $0.98 billion against $1.66 billion net flows) and turn these negative in the case of the IMF, (where African countries transferred back to the IMF an average of $600 million annually during UN-PAAERD period). Indeed, 11 African countries were over six months in arrears to the IMF and 8 to the World Bank at the end of 1990.

36. The regulations of the multilateral institutions do not allow this debt to be rescheduled or written off. Refinancing arrangements have been inadequate and recent initiatives, such as the IMF's "rights" approach to help refinance the debt owed to it by Africa, will not solve the problem.

37. UN-PAAERD recognized that there is a need for the international community:

"(i) To evolve and implement policies conducive to sustained, equitable and non-inflationary growth, including the expansion of trade through, inter alia, the elimination of protectionism, particularly non-tariff barriers, in accordance with existing commitments, the adoption of measures which encourage African exports and diversification programmes, and improved market access, especially for tropical products, within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

(ii) To deal urgently with commodity issues, taking into account the special interest of the African countries, in the framework of an overall approach, embracing commodity agreements/arrangements, adequate compensatory financing, and also to increase the capacity of African countries to process, market, distribute and transport their exports, and in this context to stress the importance of sufficient ratifications of the agreement on the Common Fund for Commodities, for it quickly to become operational".

38. Regrettably, these commitments remained largely unfulfilled during UN-PAAERD period and the international environment has generally been unfavourable to Africa.

39. Although trade grew faster and rates of growth of the developed market economy countries picked up during UN-PAAERD period, the export performance of our continent remained weak. This is mainly explained by falling commodity prices, the total collapse of coffee and cocoa prices and the continued supply overhang in commodity markets. Indeed, as we managed to expand the volume of our exports in expectation of higher export earnings, we only faced the opposite situation and also an adverse movement in Africa's terms of trade and purchasing power of exports indices. While the quantum index of our exports increased by about 6 percentage points (during 1986-1989 compared to 1981-1985), the unit value index dropped 26 points. At the same time, although our imports index fell by 4 percentage points, the unit value index of our imports rose by 11 percentage points. These movements caused further deterioration in Africa's terms of trade by one third during UN-PAAERD period. The purchasing power of our exports fell sharply to 52.5 per cent during 1986-1989, compared to 75.7 per cent in 1981-1985.

40. Support given to our countries to diversify within and outside the commodity sector was limited. It is also worthwhile to note that neither the World Bank nor the International Finance Corporation had a single African country among its top five recipients of export-oriented diversification lending in the 1980s.

41. International co-operation on commodity issues actually became weaker during UN-PAAERD period. No new price stabilization measures were introduced, and, indeed, the existing international agreements on coffee and cocoa have become inoperative.

42. The implementation of measures to provide "adequate compensatory financing" to African countries as called for by UN-PAAERD have been grossly inadequate. The extension of the scope of the IMF's Compensatory Financing Facility (CFF) in August 1988 to include a contingency mechanism has actually reduced our ability to make effective use of it because of the problems of over conditionality and eligibility. The call of the General Assembly at the Mid-Term Review for the participation of all industrialized countries in a globalized arrangement similar to STABEX/SYSMIN to compensate for shortfalls in export earnings of African countries has not received support.

43. While the Common Fund for Commodities has been ratified by many countries, the resources available for it remain meagre and it is yet to operate effectively. There is, in fact, a growing preference for free market operations and a growing perception that declining consumption represents long-term shifts in demand

induced by technological change and substitution of new synthetic materials for traditional exports.

44. Protectionism has not abated during the second half of the 1980s in the industrialized countries, while pressure was being put on Africa to liberalize its import regimes. On the other hand, we recognize, with satisfaction, that the signing of Lome IV Convention in 1989 allowed improved access to EC markets for veal beef and another 40 ACP products and that the access for fruit and vegetables to the European market has been improved.

45. We are particularly concerned about the defects of technical assistance, which currently accounts for 25 per cent of net ODA disbursements.

46. We are aware that during the UN- PAAERD period a number of initiatives were introduced to deal with the problems of technical assistance. These included National Technical Co-operation Assessment Programmes (NATCAP) and attempts to improve on the functioning of the Round Table (RT) meetings of UNDP as well as the Consultative Group (CG) meetings and the Special Programme of Assistance (SPA) of the World Bank.

47. In spite of these initiatives, our concern over the effectiveness of technical assistance is growing. Such concerns include, inter-alia, the conditionality sometimes attached to technical assistance, insufficient impact on building a lasting capacity of national institution; the lack of effective involvement of the recipient countries in the determination of technical assistance programmes; the extremely high cost of technical co-operation; difficulty in assigning of counterpart staff; training efforts do not always address the priority needs of African countries; lack of use of local expertise and equipment in project implementation and training; and the use of inexperienced foreign experts to implement technical assistance programmes.

48. These results can only lead us to conclude that our own efforts and sacrifices have not been matched by an equal effort on the part of our partners and that their response to UN-PAAERD has disappointingly not been in line with their commitments in UN-PAAERD.

49. Without an improvement in the external environment and adequate external resources, Africa cannot be expected to grow or develop. The external environment remained unfavourable during UN-PAAERD period. Furthermore, as a result of debt repayments and losses in export earnings Africa was actually a net exporter of financial resources to the rest of the world. Deducting interest and dividend payments, financial transfers to Africa would decline in real terms from $13.0 billion in 1986 to $8.7 billion in 1989. Taking into account the impact of the deterioration in the terms of trade, net financial transfers would turn negative.

50. We recognize that the response of the UN system to the implementation of UN-PAAERD has, on the whole been positive. The share of Africa in overall global assistance by the UN system rose from about 40 per cent in 1986 to over 50 per cent in 1990, i.e. from $1.1 billion in 1986 to $1.5 billion in 1990. In a number of instances this increase was as a direct result of UN-PAAERD. In other cases, UN-PAAERD helped to strengthen existing mandates and to focus attention on the critical economic situation in Africa and the need to initiate additional activities to deal with it. The share of UN-PAAERD priority sectors in these resources was high. Support was also given to priorities and institutions at the sub-regional and regional levels. It is also clear that preference was in favour of national programmes. We appreciate the efforts made by the Secretary-General of the UN to sensitize the international community to the major areas of concern of UN-PAAERD and his convening of the high level Expert Groups on Financial Flows to Africa and Africa's Commodity Problems. Co-operation among organizations of the UN system as regards global co-ordination, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of UN-PAAERD and the awareness-building and information dissemination activities are also appreciated.

51. Some efforts were made to improve the quality and modality of assistance and co-operation and support policy reforms. Much more, however remains to be done in these areas and the emerging consensus on appropriate developmental approaches needs to be translated into operational reality reflecting Africa's own strategies as enunciated in Africa's Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programme for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP).

52. We appreciate the contributions which African and non-African NGOs made in relation to the implementation of UN-PAAERD, particularly the growing magnitude of financial flows from NGO sources, education and advocacy work in the industrialized countries to seek more responsive action by Africa's multilateral and bilateral partners to meet Africa's development needs and also in support of Africa's own development policies and approaches, and the organization of various conferences and the dissemination of information to support and renew the implementation of UN-PAAERD.

III. IMPACT OF UN-PAAERD ON THE AFRICAN ECONOMY

53. We are of the view that UN-PAAERD has had very little positive impact on the performance of the African economy. Economic performance during the period 1986-1990 was not satisfactory. The rate of growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) averaged only 2.3 per cent per annum during the period, well below the average rate of population growth at 3.1 per cent. The annual rates of growth of the GDP were erratic from one year

to another. From a level of 5.8 per cent in 1985, growth rates fell to 2.6 per cent and 0.7 per cent in 1986 and 1987 respectively, increased to 2.1 per cent in 1988 and 3.3 per cent in 1989 and fell back to 2.6 per cent in 1990.

54. Thus, growth during the second half of 1980s depicted retrogression, and not progress, in the standards of living of our people. The GDP per capita decreased annually at an average rate of 0.7 per cent during 1986-1990. Gross domestic investment as a percentage of the GDP remained low, and actually declined from about 23.5 per cent in 1980 and 19.2 per cent in 1986 to 17.6 per cent in 1989. Gross domestic savings stagnated around 16 per cent during UN-PAAERD period, compared to a level of above 24 per cent in 1980.

55. A number of reasons were responsible for this poor performance. Paramount among these is the fact that the structure of our economies hardly changed during the period, causing production, productivity, savings, investment and capital formation to remain at depressed levels.

56. Added to that, a number of internal and external constraints combined to aggravate the situation.

57. Important among the internal factors was the weather which determined, to a great extent, the contribution of the agricultural sector to growth either directly or indirectly through the impact on manufacturing. The fact that many parts of our continent were subject to internal and cross-boarder conflicts was an added cause for poor performance.

58. The internal factors aside, it was the external constraints which were largely responsible for the aggravation of the situation. Our efforts to undertake economic reform measures were seriously undermined, as indicated in the preceding section, by an adverse external environment; declining export earnings; a crippling debt and debt-servicing problem; and inadequate resource flows. These interlinked problems depleted scarce resources and, caused a situation of reverse flows of resources out of Africa to the rest of the world. Under these circumstances, it is difficult to see how our economies could have grown and prospered.

59. Economic performance in the Southern African sub-region was also severely affected by the acts of destabilization by the Republic of South Africa. These acts cost the Southern African countries over $60 billion between 1980 and 1989. The SADCC countries losses in 1980-1988 period came to more than twice the total output of goods and services of these countries during 1988. In fact, destabilization was the principal cause of economic setbacks for the sub-region to the extent that in 1988, for example, the output of the sub-region would have been over 40 per cent higher in the absence of a hostile South Africa.

60. UN-PAAERD itself had little impact on economic performance during the programme period. Positive effects derived from the implementation of economic reform measures were, more than, offset by the negative effect of internal and external constraints and the shortfall in meeting the commitments by the international community in the Programme.

61. Indeed, as UN-PAAERD was being propagated, over two thirds of our countries were actually implementing Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) supported by the World Bank and IMF. The manner in which these Programmes were conceived and implemented, often had the result of hampering the achievement of some objectives of the Programme. The removal of agricultural subsidies and the liberalization of imports was, for example, in many instances harmful to increased production in agriculture and manufacturing. Large-scale and repeated devaluation also helped to fuel inflation, and excessively high nominal interest rates encouraged speculative activities rather than productive investment.

62. Improvement in the human and social conditions, which is the final goal and the raison d'être for improved economic performance, were nowhere in sight during UN-PAAERD period. Indeed, there was a marked deterioration in those conditions. The incidence of poverty, unemployment and underemployment increased. Expenditure cuts as a result of SAPs contributed to the deterioration in health and educational services; making access more difficult to education, health and other social services; lowered ratios of enrollment in educational institutions; and left our universities and research centres hollow shells of what they used to be. Devaluations, wage and salary freezes and reduction caused sharp falls in real income with serious concomitant consequences for productivity, motivation and accountability. The brain drain among our most talented and competent high-level manpower has largely been due to the drastic fall in real earnings and the crumbled down scientific infrastructure.

63. As we talk about a new generation of SAPs, we wish to point out, as has been affirmed in General Assembly resolutions 45/194, that the human dimension and long-term structural transformation requirements are yet to be imperatively integrated within such programmes.

64. All told, the economic and social conditions in Africa during 1986-1990 can only depict a picture of a continuing socio-economic crisis, a situation which calls for the need to deal with the underlying root causes thereof in a decisive and fundamental manner.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

65. The foregoing analysis can only lead us to conclude that novel as it was, UN-PAAERD did not yield the expected results.

66. A number of reasons, as we have shown above, have been responsible for this outcome.

1. Important and unique as it was, UN-PAAERD had not been the focal point for rallying international action in support of Africa. In spite of the global consensus and coalition that UN-PAAERD represented, concurrent efforts and initiatives continued to be undertaken during the period. As UN-PAAERD was ushered in, the World Bank's and IMF's-supported Structural Adjustment Programmes continued to be implemented. Indeed, these programmes very often impeded the implementation of UN-PAAERD.

2. While our countries honoured their commitment and continued to implement policy reforms and structural adjustment programmes, often at tremendous social and economic costs, the international support that was envisaged within the framework of UN-PAAERD was, disappointingly, lacking and well below expectations. Instead of receiving $9.1 billion additionally on an annual basis over and above 1986 net resource flow levels, these flows actually declined in real terms at the end of UN-PAAERD period. The international community was also unable to address the debt and commodity problems in the manner expected, to the extent that our countries became more indebted by the end of the Programme period than before and also earned less from an increased volume of exports. Little improvement, if any, was made in the modalities of technical assistance.

3. The malaise of the African economy, and the root cause of its underdevelopment, lie in the insufficient structural transformation and, in this regard, the structures of the African economies hardly changed during UN-PAAERD period.

4. Although internal constraints played a role in intensifying the causes for the lack of improvement of socio-economic performance, it was the external constraints and the unfavourable international economic environment which constituted the main obstacle to recovery and development.

67. In the light of the experience of UN-PAAERD, we have come to the conclusion that Africa does not need another UN-PAAERD. Africa is already committed as a member of the international

community, to the new International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade. At the regional level, there are the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos and the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation. With thirty African countries belonging the group of LDCs, the second Programme of Action for the LDCs adopted in Paris in September 1990, constitutes virtually a regional plan. In addition there are two sectoral programmes for Africa - the second UNTACDA and the second IDDA. In this regard, we conclude that there are more than enough regional programmes in existence and Africa does not, therefore, need another one.

68. In any case, given the global political and economic climate, it cannot be expected that a repetition of UN-PAAERD, no matter how modified, would yield results different from those of the previous Programme. If anything, it might exacerbate the marginalization of Africa by removing its main concerns from current global concerns and treating them as special problems. It will, thus, be a political mistake to relegate Africa to a "back burner" position by invoking yet another programme with an appellatory character, which everybody would know that nothing will come out of it.

69. In these circumstances, we have concluded that we need to put in place, for the rest of the decade, arrangements that would avoid the further marginalization of our continent and will not treat our problems as special cases -but as point of global problems without whose solution international development and cooperation will not be fully attained. Consequently we have opted for a new kind of international agenda for co-operation with Africa - an agenda that is specific on issues and problem-oriented and whose solutions will enable Africa to implement fully the existing global, regional and sectoral strategies, programmes and plans.

V. INTERNATIONAL AGENDA FOR CO-OPERATION WITH AFRICA IN THE 1990s

70. This new kind of international agenda for co-operation with Africa in the 1990s will be in two parts - what Africa must commit itself to do and what the international community should commit itself to do.

PART I OF THE AGENDA: AFRICA'S COMMITMENT

(i) Policy Framework

71. Following from the foregoing conclusions, we can only surmise that our continent has no alternative but to pursue,

urgently and persistently, economic reform measures that would lead to a process of sustained and sustainable growth and development.

72. Such a process cannot be set in motion through the implementation of orthodox Structural Adjustment Programmes. That is not only our conclusion, but also the verdict of the UN General Assembly when it concluded:

> "The implementation of structural adjustment programmes has given rise to general concerns, such as human, social and political consequences, as well as long term financing needs for Africa's economic recovery and development efforts. .... Structural adjustment programmes should be designed in such a way as to mitigate their adverse socio-economic effects, ensure that the human dimension is integrated in them, further improve the well being of the poor and disadvantaged in African societies, notably through redirecting social and developmental expenditure, and making short-term structural adjustment measures compatible with and built into long-term structural transformation."

Indeed, the General Assembly challenged us by urging that:

> "African countries should increase their efforts in the search for a viable conceptual and practical framework for economic structural adjustment programmes in keeping with the long-term development objectives and strategies at the national, sub-regional and regional levels."

73. We met that challenge by elaborating the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programme for Socio Economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP), which charts the way forward to the achievement of sustained and sustainable growth and development.

74. Not only was AAF-SAP adopted by our Heads of State and Government, but it was also blessed by the UN General Assembly which commended it as a framework for negotiation with Africa's bilateral and multilateral partners. We, therefore, call on our partners to take account of these decisions in all negotiations.

75. We are convinced that growth and development on a sustained and sustainable basis can only unfold through the popular enthusiasm of the people and their full participation in the process of development. We are, therefore, determined to press ahead with the democratization of development and the full implementation of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation and the declaration of our Heads of State and Government at their 1990 Summit on the

political and socio-economic situation in Africa and the fundamental changes taking place in the world.

75. But this determination to pursue vigorously the transformation of our economy and society, is not likely to succeed if the international economic environment continues to remain hostile and if the interlinked problems of debt commodities and resource flows are not fundamentally solved.

77. On the basis of the foregoing considerations emanating from our objective evaluation of the implementation of UN-PAAERD, we propose an initiative commensurate with the status and challenges confronting our continent at the dawn of the 1990s. Such an initiative shall take the form of a new AGENDA FOR COOPERATION between Africa and the international community that would focus on the set of problems without the solution of which Africa cannot be expected to progress and prosper, and which would underwrite our continent's efforts and development orientation.

78. Thus on our part we will, above all, commit ourselves to the transformation of the structures of our economies to achieve growth and development on a sustained and sustainable basis as enunciated in AAF-SAP.

(ii) The Human Dimension

79. At the centre of that process is the human dimension. We therefore resolve to improve the human conditions and living standards of our people. We are aware that our capacity to develop and compete meaningfully in the world economy depends on the efficiency and quality of our human resources. It is in this sense that we regard intensified human resources development and utilization and capacity building as an important part of the agenda for international co-operation with Africa.

(iii) Intensification of the Democratization Process

80. We also commit ourselves to speed up the democratization of the economy and society and the full participation of our people in development as embodied in the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation.

(iv) Promotion of Regional and Sub-regional Co-operation

81. The effective transformation of our economies would not be possible without effective regional and sub-regional economic cooperation and integration. We therefore resolve to pursue this objective with vigour and fully commit ourselves to the establishment of the African Economic Community and to the effective functioning of our sub-regional organizations, the PTA, SADCC, ECOWAS, ECCAS and UMA.

(v) South-South Co-operation

82. We are also convinced that South-South Co-operation is an indispensable element for the success of the **NEW AGENDA FOR CO-OPERATION** and we are, therefore, determined to intensify such cooperation.

PART II OF THE AGENDA: THE COMMITMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

83. The international community would need to support Africa's own approaches to development and transformation and to create the conditions that are necessary for the success of our endeavours. Within the framework of this **NEW AGENDA FOR COOPERATION**, the international community would need to deal with the problems of bilateral and multilateral debt, commodities and resource flows in a fundamental manner that would provide lasting solutions to these problems.

(i) Solution for Africa's Debt Problem

(a) Bilateral Debt

84. In the area of debt, major initiatives to cancel the bulk of Africa's bilateral ODA and export credits debt must be instituted. We are convinced, in this regard, that the solution to the debt problem is primarily a political, and not a technical one as the recent experience of some countries has shown.

85. We call on the governments of the industrialized countries to actively participate in the solution of the problem of commercial debt with a view to effecting a substantial reduction of that debt and facilitating its repayment.

(b) Multilateral Debt

86. Bold solutions to the problem of multilateral debt must also be included. In addition to the re-financing facilities that are already existing with respect to multilateral debt, we, therefore, call for the amendment of the articles of the Bretton Woods institutions to permit a resolution of the problem.

87. In all, we call on the international community to assist in the implementation of the **African Common Position on Africa's External Debt Crisis**, particularly the organization of the International Conference on Africa's External Indebtedness.

(c) Delinking Debt Relief from SAPs' Conditionality

88. There is also a need to delink debt relief from the damaging conditionality of SAPs.

(ii) Diversification of the African Economy

89. Another area in which fundamental reforms are required concerns the African commodities sector. Our common position on the FRASER's report is pertinent in this respect. Our development strategy cannot be tied to the commodities sector largely because the control of this sector rests with the international community. As it is, increasing commodity output, given the adverse terms of trade against producers, is a poor development strategy. Larger output is not likely to lead to greater revenue. Therefore, a concerted programme of diversification of Africa's economies, including intensified industrialization is called for. Not only will this improve our technological position, it will also reduce our dependence on a few commodities as the mainstay of our economies. The international community will, therefore, need to support this effort and also measures to make earnings from our commodities more remunerative.

(iii) Increased Resource Flows

90. We also launch an appeal to the international community to increase its financial assistance to Africa in a substantial manner to consolidate reform programmes and achieve the structural transformation of the economies.

MONITORING MACHINERY

91. It is this kind of NEW AGENDA FOR CO-OPERATION that needs to be forged in the aftermath of UN-PAAERD, where concrete actions in critical areas of mutual concern will be specifically implemented and monitored within the framework of the NEW AGENDA.

92. To oversee the monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the NEW AGENDA, there is a need for a high-level monitoring committee to be instituted. We wish, therefore, to propose that a machinery should be established comprising the representatives of the ECA Conference of Ministers and the DAC of OECD in equal numbers plus a group of eminent persons from Africa and the international community, appointed in their personal capacity by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

93. Reports on the implementation of this NEW AGENDA FOR CO-OPERATION should be prepared and submitted annually to the General Assembly through the ECA Conference of Ministers and ECOSOC.

94. The UN Inter-Agency Task Force, which has done an excellent job on the monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of UN-PAAERD, should act as the technical advisory body of the Committee.

95. The UN and NGOs have an important role to play in the implementation of the NEW AGENDA and extra efforts need to be made by them to provide support within this framework. Much needs to be done by the UN system in terms of co-ordination of approaches and operational modalities; increased mobilization of resources; assistance in improving the external environment and dealing effectively with the debt problem; easing conditionalities; offering assistance at more concessional terms and finding a solution to the multilateral debt; and the effective and efficient delivery of technical co-operation programmes.